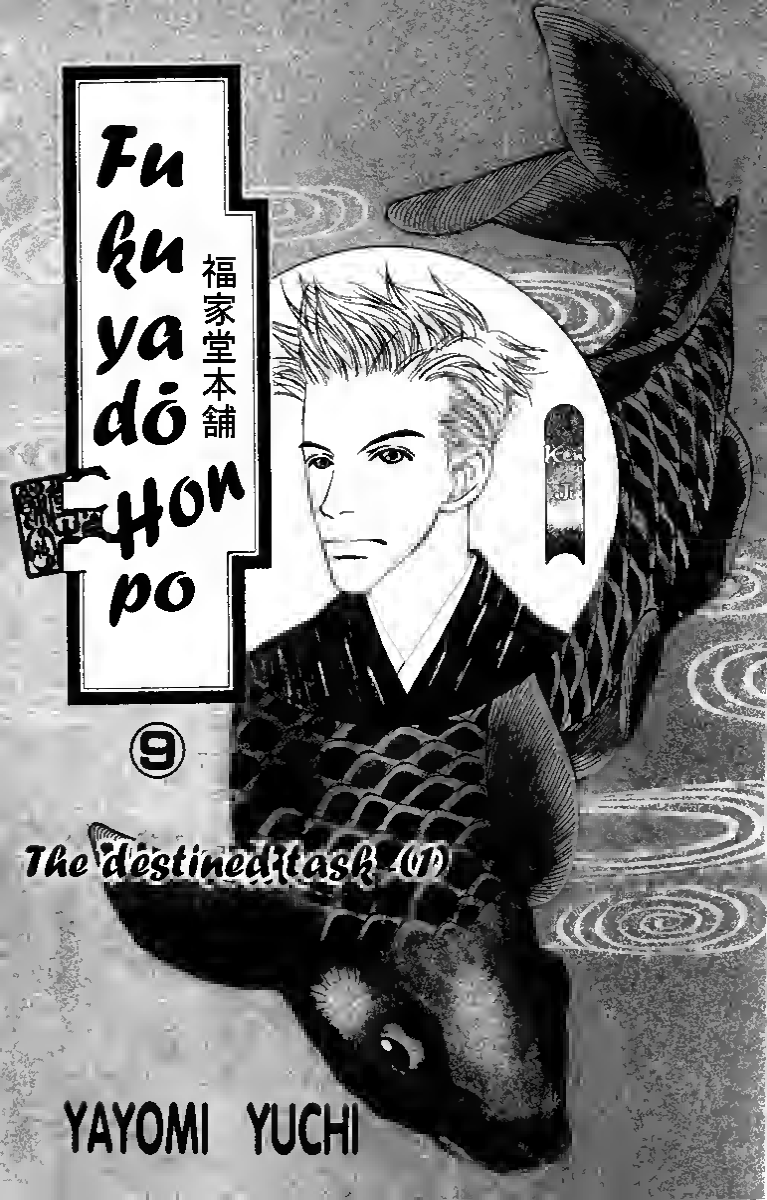
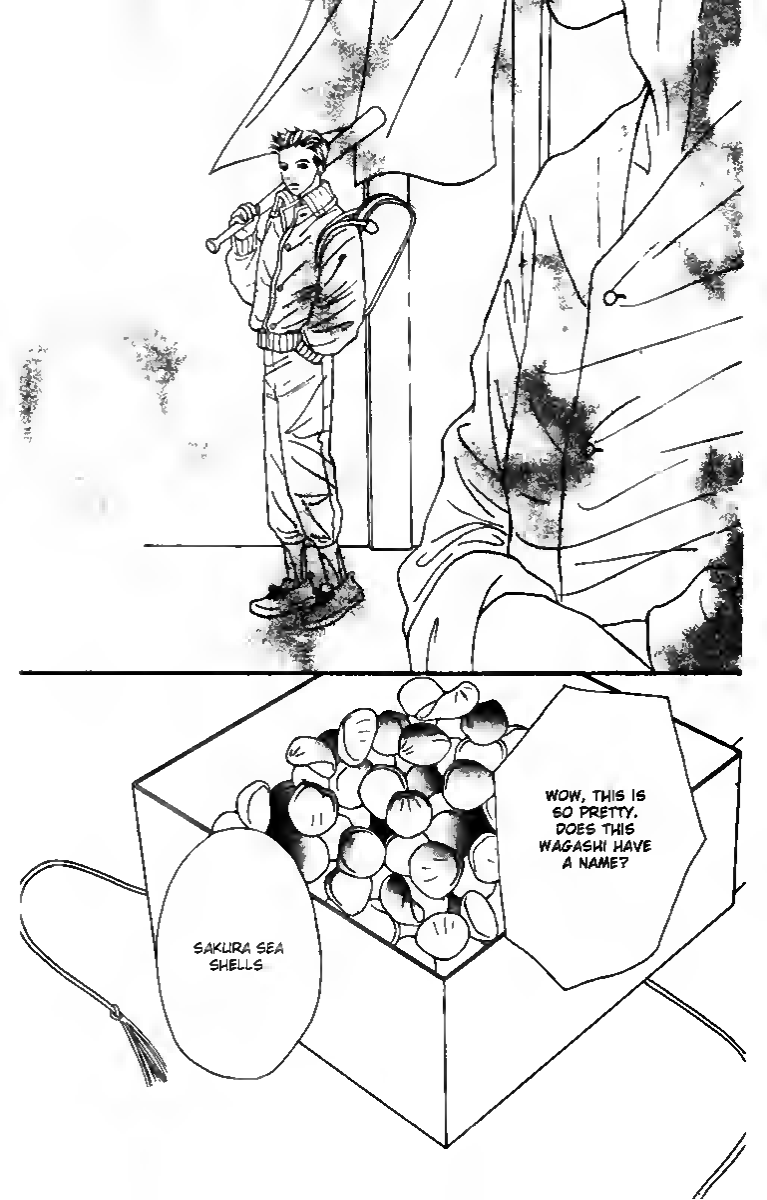

Fukuyadō Honpo
福家堂本舗
9
The destined task (I)
YAYOMI YUCHI

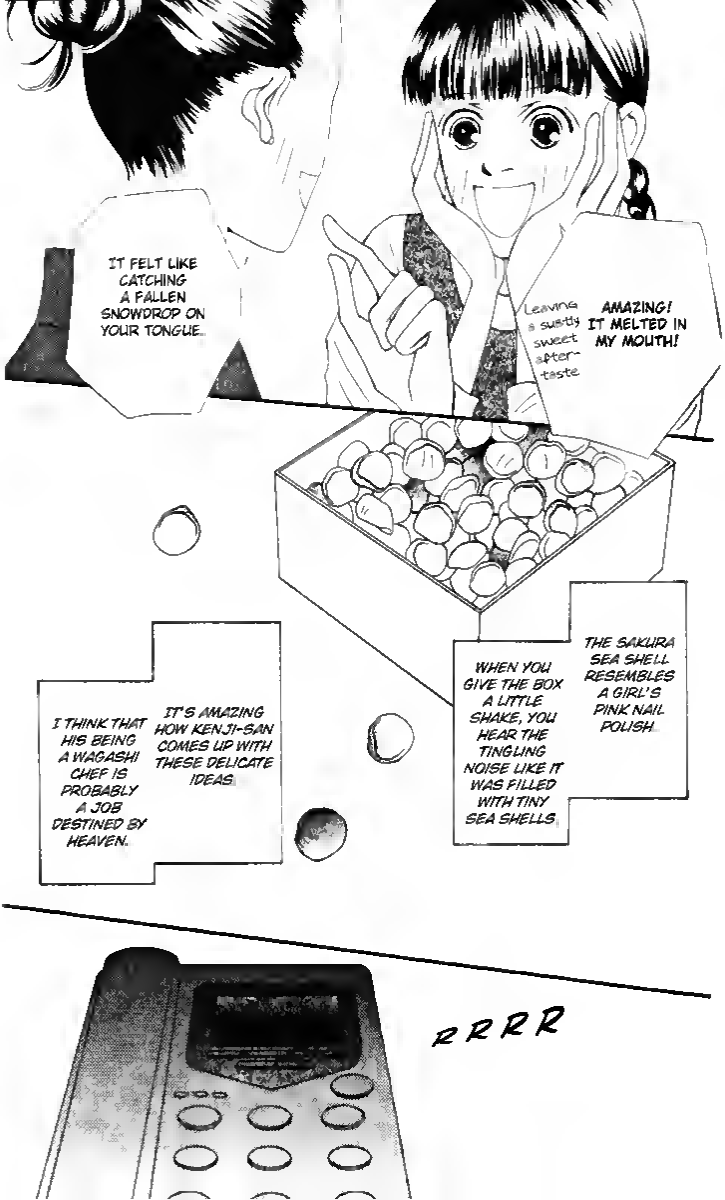
THE NANKAI* LOST AGAIN THIS YEAR.

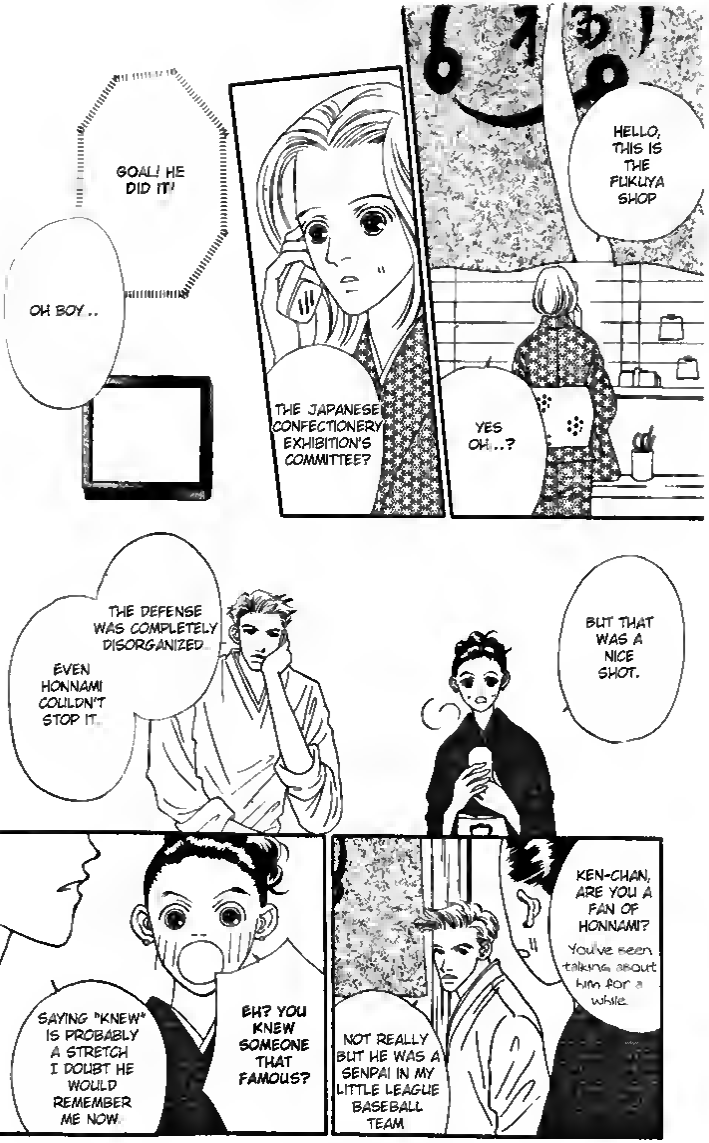
DANG...

T/N The Nankai Hawks were a Japanese professional baseball team from mid 1947 until 1988


WOW, THIS IS SO PRETTY. DOES THIS WAGASHI HAVE A NAME?
SAKURA SEA SHELLS

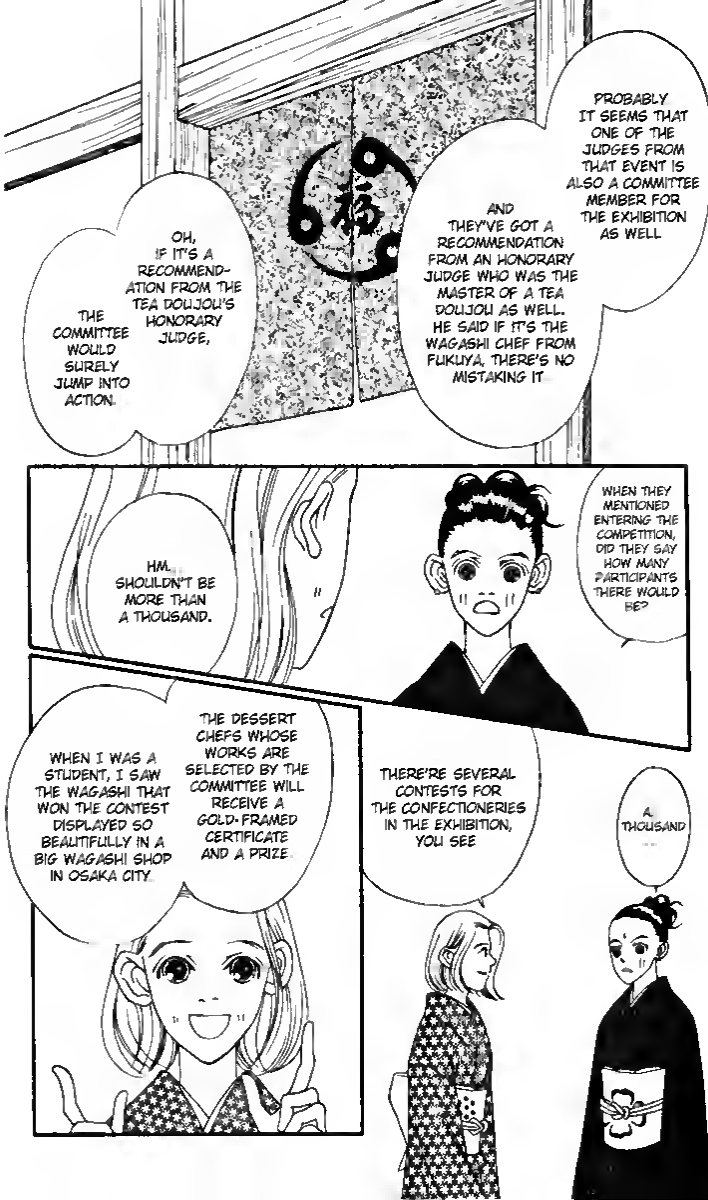
WHAT A REMARKABLY CREATIVE WORK! WHEN ARE WE SELLING IT?
THEY'RE SO TINY AND CUTE!
THE RIGHT SEASON HAS PASSED FOR THIS YEAR, SO MAYBE NEXT SPRING
EH? NEXT YEAR..?
BY THE TIME I CAME UP WITH THE CONCEPT, IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.
DOES NOTHING ABOUT ME INSPIRE YOU AT ALL?!
AH, IT DID?
I FOUND HANA-CHAN PAINTING HER NAILS SO PRETTILY AND IT INSPIRED ME
(HEW
SURE
CAN I TASTE IT?

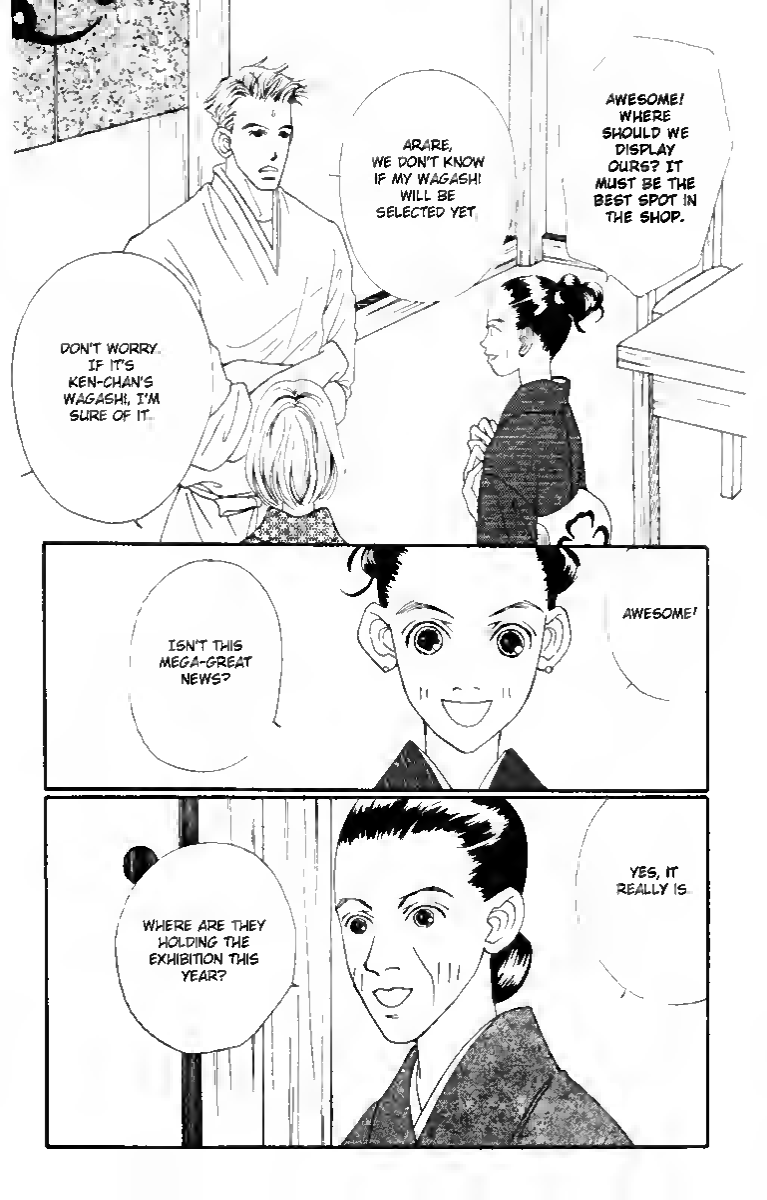

IT FELT LIKE CATCHING A FALLEN SNOWDROP ON YOUR TONGUE.
Leaving a subtly sweet after-taste
AMAZING! IT MELTED IN MY MOUTH!
THE SAKURA SEA SHELL RESEMBLES A GIRL'S PINK NAIL POLISH.
WHEN YOU GIVE THE BOX A LITTLE SHAKE, YOU HEAR THE TINGLING NOISE LIKE IT WAS FILLED WITH TINY SEA SHELLS.
IT'S AMAZING HOW KENJI-SAN COMES UP WITH THESE DELICATE IDEAS.
I THINK THAT HIS BEING A WAGASHI CHEF IS PROBABLY A JOB DESTINED BY HEAVEN.
RRRR


GOAL! HE DID IT!
OH BOY..
THE JAPANESE CONFECTIONERY EXHIBITION'S COMMITTEE?
HELLO, THIS IS THE FUKUYA SHOP
YES OH...?
THE DEFENSE WAS COMPLETELY DISORGANIZED.
EVEN HONNAMI COULDN'T STOP IT.
BUT THAT WAS A NICE SHOT.
SAYING "KNEW" IS PROBABLY A STRETCH I DOUBT HE WOULD REMEMBER ME NOW.
EH? YOU KNEW SOMEONE THAT FAMOUS?
NOT REALLY BUT HE WAS A SENPAI IN MY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM
KEN-CHAN, ARE YOU A FAN OF HONNAMI?
You've been talking about him for a while.

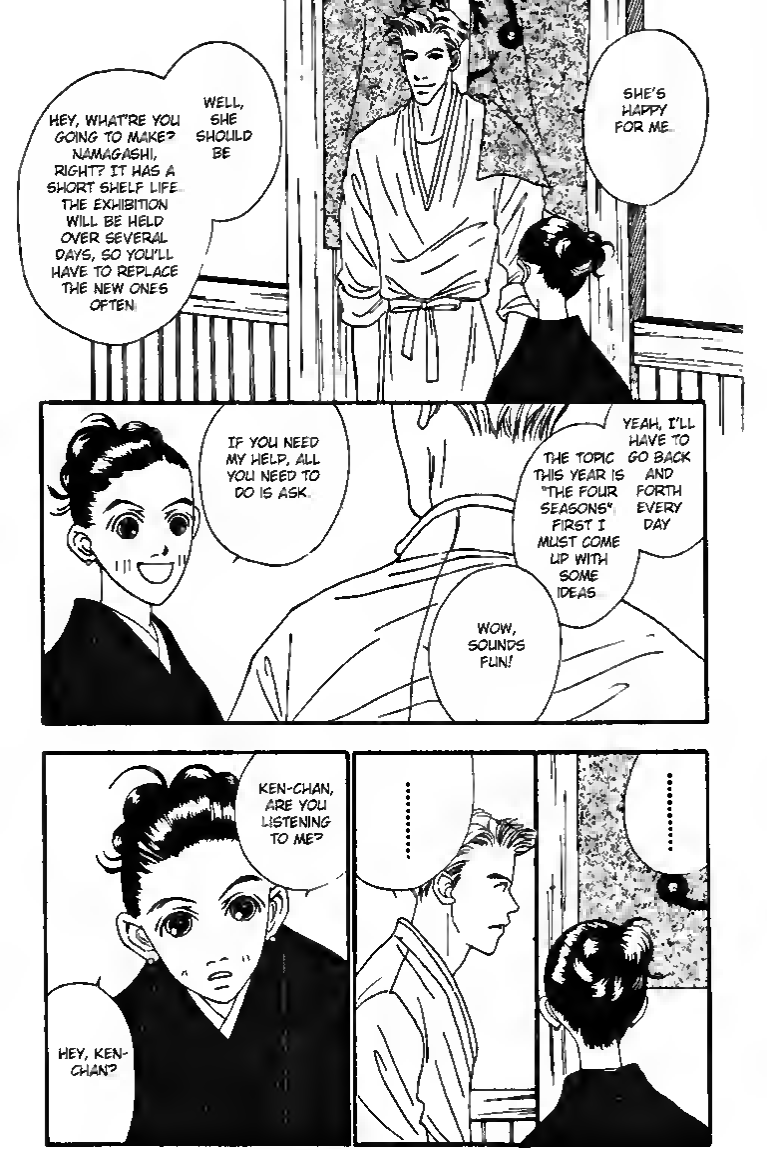
WHEN HE ENTERED JUNIOR HIGH, HE QUIT BASEBALL AND JOINED THE SOCCER CLUB.
HE'S PLAYING IN THE J LEAGUE* RIGHT NOW. HE'S AN INCREDIBLE PERSON.
BUT I REMEMBER HIM VERY WELL. HE WAS A GREAT ATHLETE.
HE STOOD OUT FROM THE REST OF THE CHILDREN SINCE HE WAS A CHILD.
* J Leauge = Japanese Professional Football League
YEAH...
THE CONFEC-TIONERY EXHIBITION?
WOW...
KEN-CHAN, A PHONE CALL FROM THE CONFECTIONERY EXHIBITION'S COMMITTEE.
WHAT DID THEY SAY, KEN-CHAN?
THE WAGASHI CHEF WHO WORKS HERE.*
I HAVE NO IDEA. BUT HE WAS ASKING FOR *MIYASAKO KENJI.
WHY DID THAT COMMITTEE CALL?

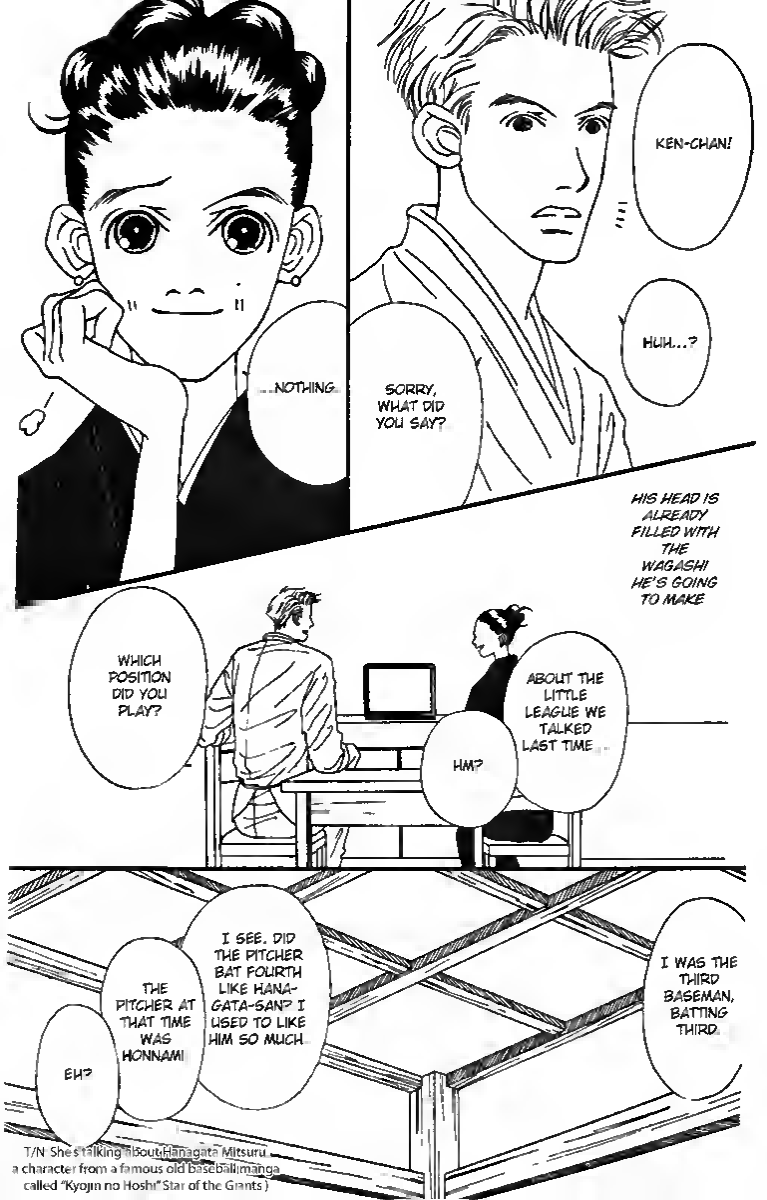
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE UPCOMING CONFECTIONERY EXHIBITION?
YEAH, I DO. IT'S HELD ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS.
I'm a wagashi shop's daughter after all
IT'S AN EXHIBITION OF ALL KINDS OF CONFECTIONERIES, BOTH WESTERN AND JAPANESE ONES
EVERY TYPE OF PASTRY WILL BE PUT ON DISPLAY.
BUT EACH WILL BE CAREFULLY CHOSEN BY THE JUDGING COMMITTEE.
* wet confectionery
THEY CALLED TO ASK IF I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING SOMETHING FOR THE NAMAGASHI* SECTION.
EH?! THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT KEN-CHAN'S WAGASHI WILL BE SELECTED FOR THIS EXHIBITION, RIGHT?
THAT'S AWESOME!
THEY SAID I WAS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DISPLAY MY WORK IN THE EXHIBITION.
HOWEVER, THEY WANT ME TO TURN IN A SUBMISSION IN TO THE COMPETITION FIRST, LIKE THE OTHERS.
HOW DID IT HAPPEN? WHO RECOMMENDED YOU?
IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE EVENT A FEW YEARS AGO.
OH, THE "HINA" WAGASHI, ISN'T IT? YOU WON THE AWARD THAT TIME.


PROBABLY IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF THE JUDGES FROM THAT EVENT IS ALSO A COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR THE EXHIBITION AS WELL
AND THEY'VE GOT A RECOMMENDATION FROM AN HONORARY JUDGE WHO WAS THE MASTER OF A TEA DOUJOU AS WELL. HE SAID IF IT'S THE WAGASHI CHEF FROM FUKUYA, THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT
OH, IF IT'S A RECOMMEND-ATION FROM THE TEA DOUJOU'S HONORARY JUDGE,
THE COMMITTEE WOULD SURELY JUMP INTO ACTION.
WHEN THEY MENTIONED ENTERING THE COMPETITION, DID THEY SAY HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS THERE WOULD BE?
HM... SHOULDN'T BE MORE THAN A THOUSAND.
A THOUSAND ...
THERE'RE SEVERAL CONTESTS FOR THE CONFECTIONERIES IN THE EXHIBITION, YOU SEE
THE DESSERT CHEFS WHOSE WORKS ARE SELECTED BY THE COMMITTEE WILL RECEIVE A GOLD-FRAMED CERTIFICATE AND A PRIZE.
WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, I SAW THE WAGASHI THAT WON THE CONTEST DISPLAYED SO BEAUTIFULLY IN A BIG WAGASHI SHOP IN OSAKA CITY.


AWESOME! WHERE SHOULD WE DISPLAY OURS? IT MUST BE THE BEST SPOT IN THE SHOP.
ARARE, WE DON'T KNOW IF MY WAGASHI WILL BE SELECTED YET.
DON'T WORRY. IF IT'S KEN-CHAN'S WAGASHI, I'M SURE OF IT.
AWESOME!
ISN'T THIS MEGA-GREAT NEWS?
YES, IT REALLY IS.
WHERE ARE THEY HOLDING THE EXHIBITION THIS YEAR?

IN OSAKA.
ALL OF NEXT WEEK, AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH WORK, MAY I USE THE KITCHEN? I'LL CLOSE IT PROPERLY BEFORE I LEAVE.
SURE. YOU CAN USE ANYTHING IN THERE TOO.
TALK TO SEI-OJISAN ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. I KNOW YOU'LL NEED A LOT OF TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE EXHIBITION
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT MY WAGASHI WILL BE SELECTED.
IF IT IS, THEN I MAY HAVE TO IMPOSE ON YOUR OFFER
BUT I'LL NOT LET IT AFFECT MY WORK.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME
SUCH A DEPENDABLE YOUNG MAN.
WHAT DID MOM SAY?


SHE'S HAPPY FOR ME...
WELL, SHE SHOULD BE
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO MAKE? NAMAGASHI, RIGHT? IT HAS A SHORT SHELF LIFE. THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD OVER SEVERAL DAYS, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO REPLACE THE NEW ONES OFTEN.
YEAH, I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK AND FORTH EVERY DAY
THE TOPIC THIS YEAR IS "THE FOUR SEASONS" FIRST I MUST COME UP WITH SOME IDEAS.
IF YOU NEED MY HELP, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS ASK.
WOW, SOUNDS FUN!
.....
.....
KEN-CHAN, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
HEY, KEN-CHAN?


KEN-CHAN!
HUH...?
SORRY, WHAT DID YOU SAY?
...NOTHING.
HIS HEAD IS ALREADY FILLED WITH THE WAGASHI HE'S GOING TO MAKE
WHICH POSITION DID YOU PLAY?
HM?
ABOUT THE LITTLE LEAGUE WE TALKED LAST TIME...
I WAS THE THIRD BASEMAN, BATTING THIRD.
I SEE. DID THE PITCHER BAT FOURTH LIKE HANA-GATA-SAN? I USED TO LIKE HIM SO MUCH.
THE PITCHER AT THAT TIME WAS HONNAMI
EH?

T/N She's talking about Hanagata Mitsuru, a character from a famous old baseball manga called "Kyojin no Hoshi" Star of the Giants.)

TALKING ABOUT THIRD BASEMAN, YOU MUST HAVE IDOLIZED NAGASHIMA-SAN*, RIGHT?
NOT REALLY. HE WAS ALREADY RETIRED WHEN I WAS PLAYING.
BUT FUJIWARA-SAN* OF THE NANKAI WAS IN HIS PRIME AT THAT TIME.
MY DAD WAS A BIG FAN FUJIWARA-SAN WASN'T AWFULLY FAMOUS BUT HE WAS GOOD AT WHAT HE DID AND HAD A COOL DEMEANOR. I LIKED HIM A LOT
KEN-CHAN'S FATHER WAS A NANKAI FAN THROUGH AND THROUGH, WASN'T HE?
THERE WERE MANY STRONG BASEBALL TEAMS IN THE KANSAI REGION, SUCH AS THE HANSHIN TIGERS, AND THE KINTETSU BUFFALOES*. BUT DURING THAT TIME, ONLY THE NANKAI WERE
AS A BORN AND BRED OSAKA BOY, KENJI-SAN WAS CRAZY ABOUT THE NANKAI LIKE MOST OTHER PEOPLE FROM OSAKA.

T/N: Nagashima Shigeo was a former third baseman of the Yomiuri Giants during 1958-1974. He was by far the most popular figure in Japanese baseball during his career.

*T/N: Fujiwara Mitsuru is a former third baseman of the Nankai Hawks. He won the Gold Glove award in 1976 and 1981.

*T/N: Today The Kintetsu Buffaloes are known as The Orix Buffaloes.

WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, HIS DAD OFTEN TOOK HIM THERE TO WATCH THE GAMES
THE NANKAI'S HOME FIELD WAS JUST A FIFTEEN MINUTE DOWNHILL BIKE RIDE FROM KENJI-SAN'S HOUSE
KENJI-SAN JOINED A LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM CALLED THE SHITENNOUJI YANCHA BOSS
THE UNIFORM COLOR WAS, OF COURSE, THE NANKAI'S GREEN
BACK IN THOSE DAYS, THE COLOR OF THE UNIFORMS OF MOST OF THE LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS IN THE AREA WERE GREEN LIKE THE NANKAI'S
SMACK
SMACK
I KNEW IT. HONNAMI DELIVERED AS USUAL.

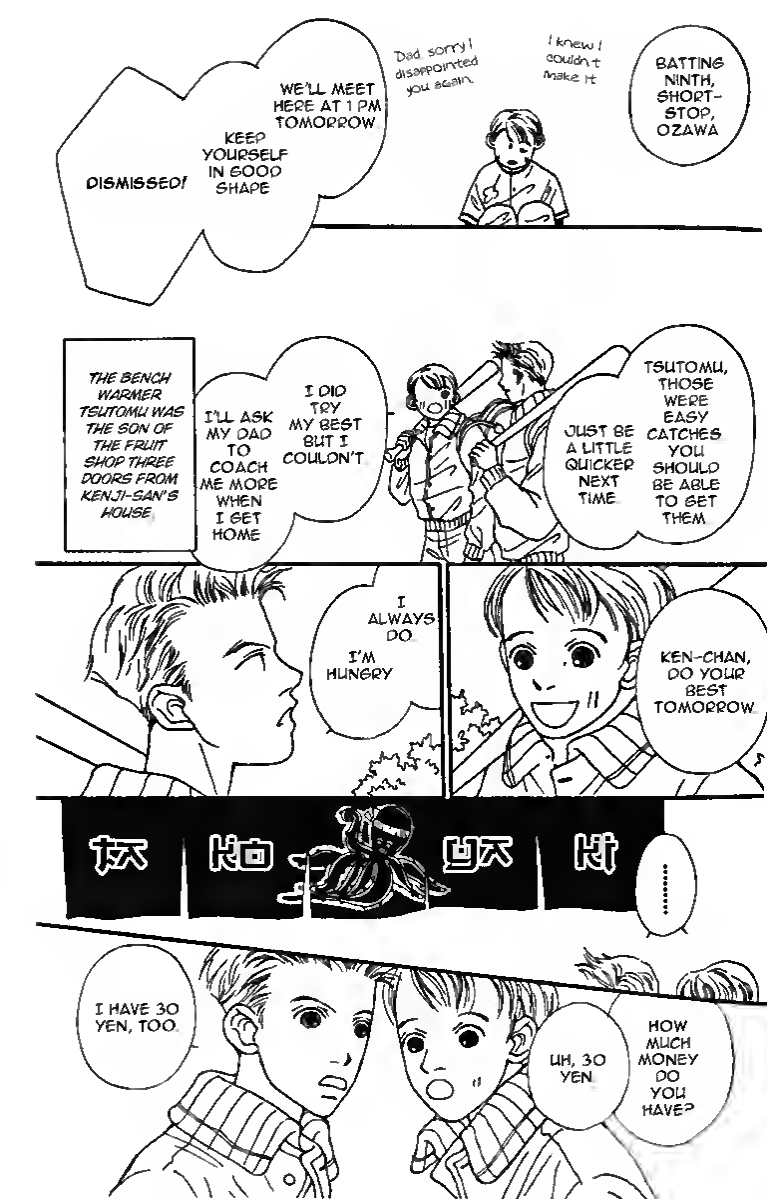
DO YOU KNOW HOW IT ENDED?
HEY, TSUTOMU, LEND ME YOUR SAMURAI GIANTS MANGA
I'M A FIFTH GRADER AND STILL A BALLBOY
SMACK
DID I DO SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY?
SEE? ANOTHER HOMERUN
AH, IT'S KEN-CHAN
WELL, YOU SEE
WHAT? TELL ME NOW
NO, YOU DO? TELL ME!

TSUTOMU, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
UP UNTIL NOW, THE ONLY BOYS WHO'VE MADE IT ONTO THE TEAM'S ROSTER IN THE FOURTH GRADE WERE HONNAMI AND KENJI.
SURE, I KNOW HIM. KEN-CHAN IS THE BEST.
IDIOT! HONNAMI IS BETTER THAN HIM. IN THE LAST GAME, HE HIT HOMERUNS TWICE IN A ROW.
BUT HONNAMI IS A SIXTH GRADER. KEN-CHAN IS IN THE SAME GRADE AS US.
HE'S BETTER THAN ANY OF US IN TERMS OF HITTING, CATCHING, AND RUNNING.
heh?

WHOOSH
AMAZING...

HERE IS THE LINEUP FOR TOMORROW'S GAME. STAND UP WHEN YOUR NAME IS CALLED
BATTING FIRST, CENTERFIELDER, OCHIAI
YES, SIR!
EXCITED
BATTING SECOND, SECOND BASEMAN, MORITA.
YES, SIR!

BATTING FOURTH, PITCHER, HONNAMI
YES, SIR!
BATTING THIRD, THIRD BASEMAN, MIYASAKO
YES, SIR!
BATTING SEVENTH, LEFT FIELDER, SAITOU
YES, SIR!
BATTING FIFTH, CATCHER, KAWASHIMA
YES, SIR!
BATTING SIXTH, FIRST BASEMAN, KISHI-MOTO
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
MAEDA.
BADUMP
BATTING EIGHTH, RIGHT FIELDER...
MY POSI-TION

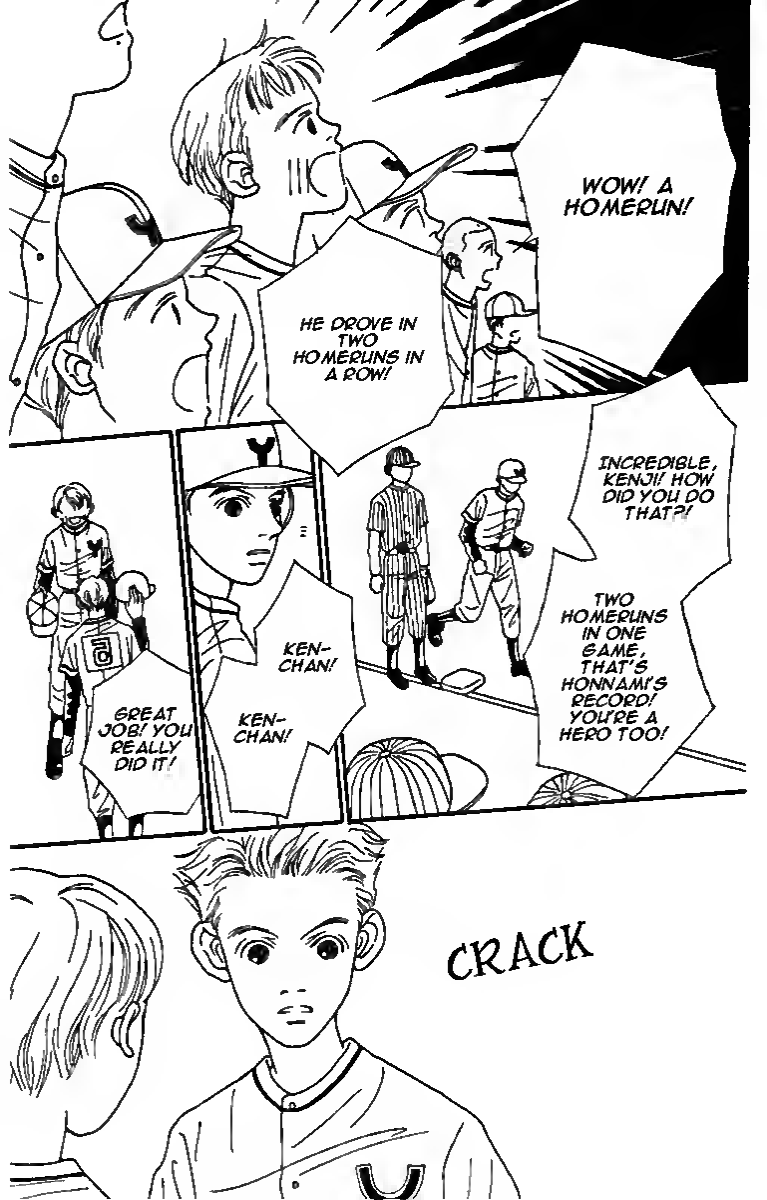

BATTING NINTH, SHORT-STOP, OZAWA
I knew I couldn't make it
Dad, sorry! disappointed you again.
WE'LL MEET HERE AT 1 PM TOMORROW
KEEP YOURSELF IN GOOD SHAPE
DISMISSED!
THE BENCH WARMER TSUTOMU WAS THE SON OF THE FRUIT SHOP THREE DOORS FROM KENJI-SAN'S HOUSE
I'LL ASK MY DAD TO COACH ME MORE WHEN I GET HOME
I DID TRY MY BEST BUT I COULDN'T
JUST BE A LITTLE QUICKER NEXT TIME
TSUTOMU, THOSE WERE EASY CATCHES YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THEM
I ALWAYS DO
I'M HUNGRY
KEN-CHAN, DO YOUR BEST TOMORROW
I HAVE 30 YEN, TOO.
UH, 30 YEN
HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE?

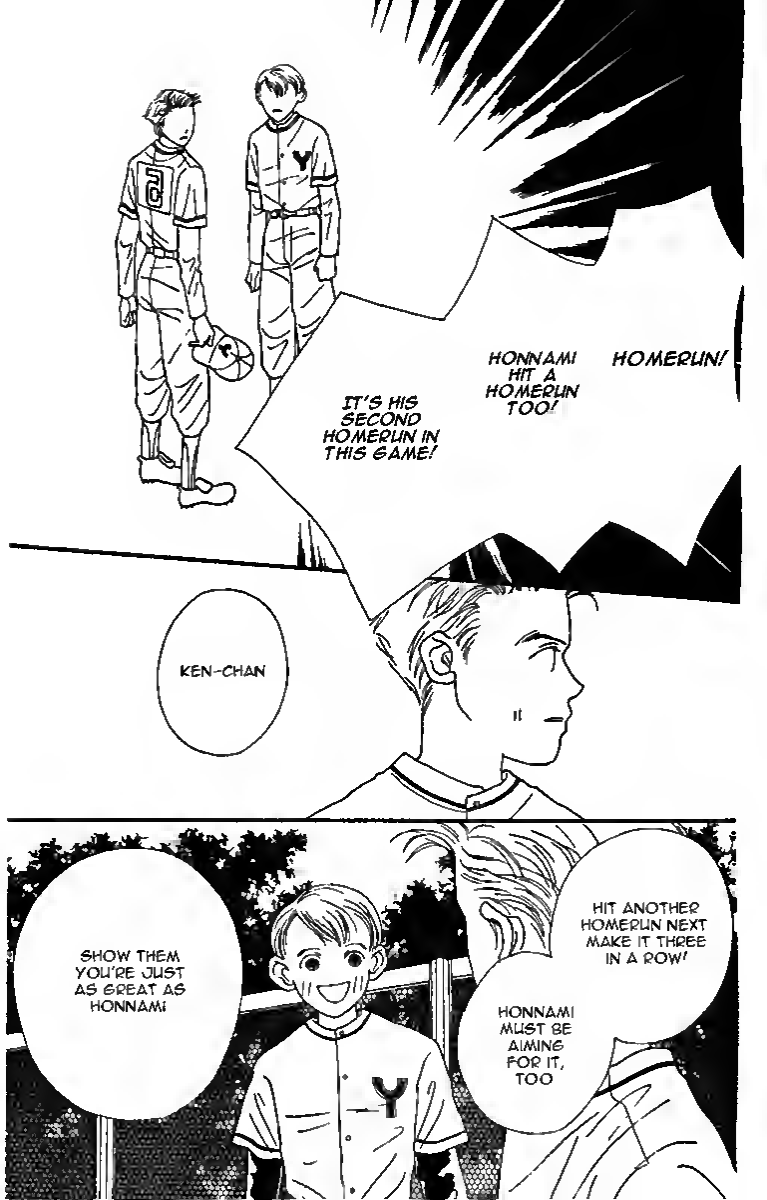
OBA-SAN, SIX TAKOYAKI PLEASE
SURE, IT'LL BE 60 YEN
SHE GAVE US ANOTHER LEFTOVER FOR FREE...
LUCKY! ♡
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

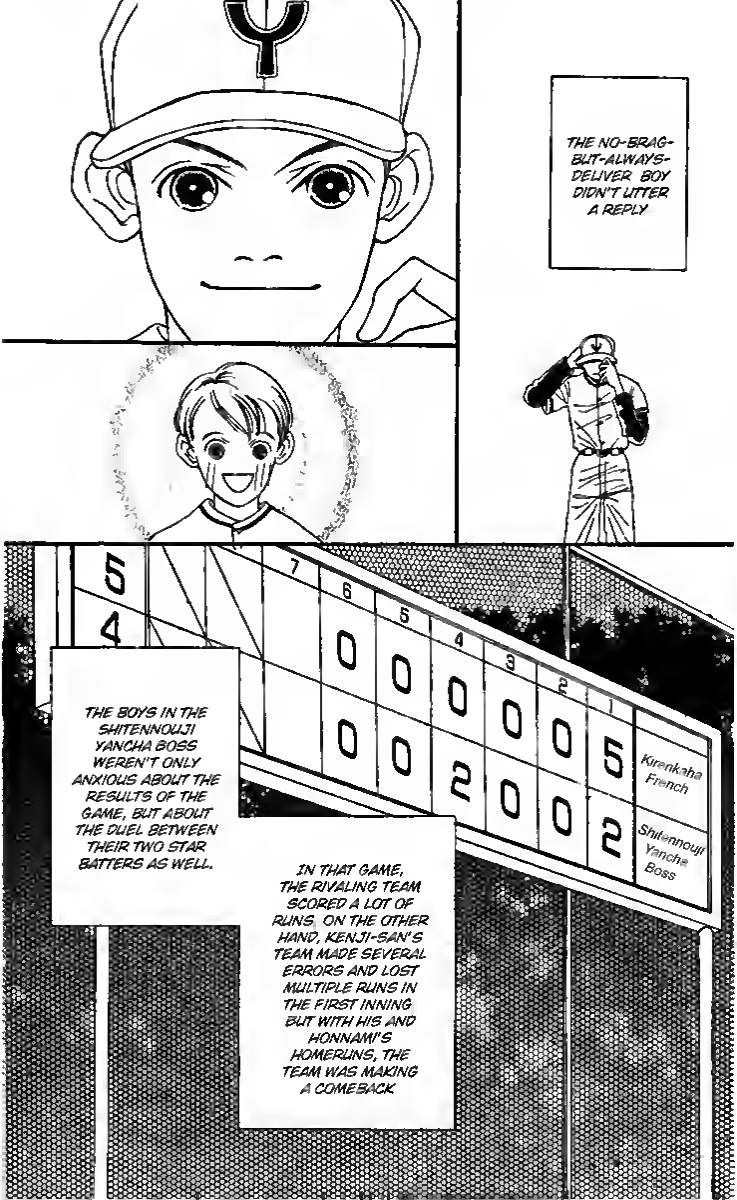
gulp
TAKOYAKI IS THE BEST!
WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL USE ALL OF MY SALARY TO BUY TAKOYAKI.
I'LL BUY TIROL CHOCOLATE*
AND TOMORROW I'LL HIT A HOMERUN!
AND POCKY AND SHRIMP CRACKERS.
DRIED RADISH TOO.
You can't ask your mom to make that.

T/N Tirol Chocolate is a brand of milk chocolate nougat sold in tiny little squares.

CRACK


WOW! A HOMERUN!
HE DROVE IN TWO HOMERUNS IN A ROW!
INCREDIBLE, KENJI! HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!
TWO HOMERUNS IN ONE GAME, THAT'S HONNAMI'S RECORD! YOU'RE A HERO TOO!
KEN-CHAN!
KEN-CHAN!
GREAT JOB! YOU REALLY DID IT!
CRACK

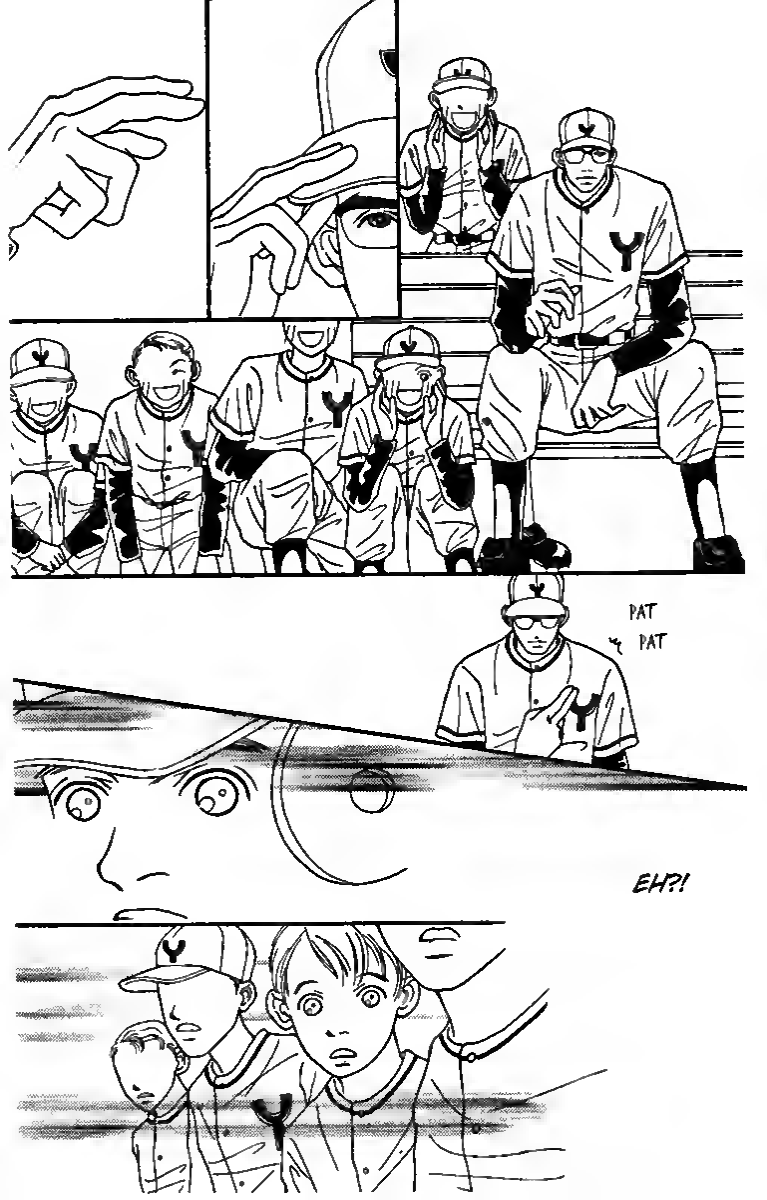

HOMERUN!
HONNAMI HIT A HOMERUN TOO!
IT'S HIS SECOND HOMERUN IN THIS GAME!
KEN-CHAN
HIT ANOTHER HOMERUN NEXT MAKE IT THREE IN A ROW!
HONNAMI MUST BE AIMING FOR IT, TOO
SHOW THEM YOU'RE JUST AS GREAT AS HONNAMI


THE NO-BRAG-BUT-ALWAYS-DELIVER BOY DIDN'T LITTER A REPLY
THE BOYS IN THE SHITENNOUJI YANCHA BOSS WEREN'T ONLY ANXIOUS ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE GAME, BUT ABOUT THE DUEL BETWEEN THEIR TWO STAR BATTERS AS WELL.
IN THAT GAME, THE RIVALING TEAM SCORED A LOT OF RUNS. ON THE OTHER HAND, KENJI-SAN'S TEAM MADE SEVERAL ERRORS AND LOST MULTIPLE RUNS IN THE FIRST INNING. BUT WITH HIS AND HONNAMI'S HOMERUNS, THE TEAM WAS MAKING A COMEBACK
5
4
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0 0 0 0 0 5
0 0 2 0 0 2
Kirenkaha French
Shitennouji Yancha Boss

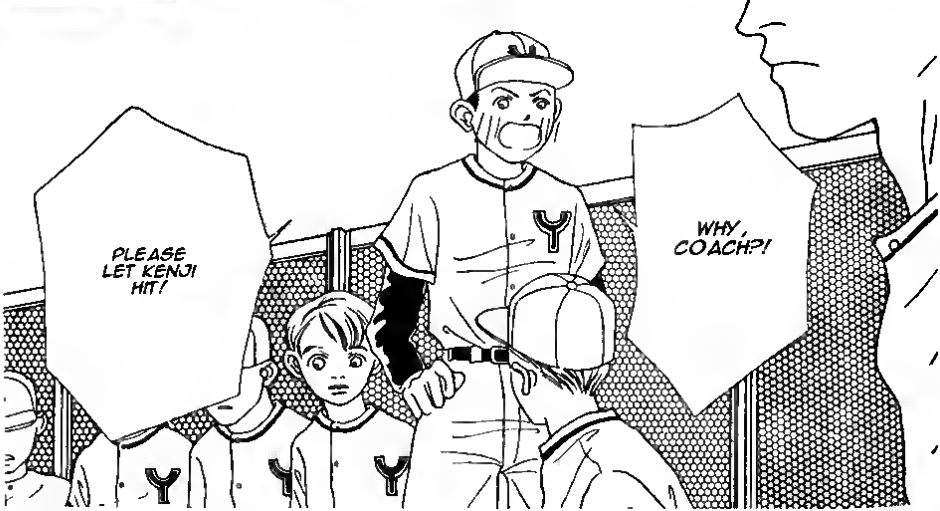
KENJI, YOU'RE UP NEXT INNING GO FOR THE THIRD HOMERUN!
PNP
STRIKE!
BATTER OUT!
DON'T LOSE TO HONNAMI! WE FIFTH GRADERS ARE ALL ROOTING FOR YOU.
HIT A HOMERUN, KENJI!
WITH ONE OUT,
FINALLY IT CAME DOWN TO THE LAST INNING
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
5 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 Kirenkaha French
4 0 0 2 0 0 2 Shitennouji Yancha Boss

WHOA!
smack
WE'VE GOT IT.
IT'S A HIT!
KEEP GOING!
STEP
WE'RE GONNA WIN!
THE NEXT BATTER IS...
WE'VE GOT A RUNNER ON!
HOORAY! HE MADE IT ON BASE...!

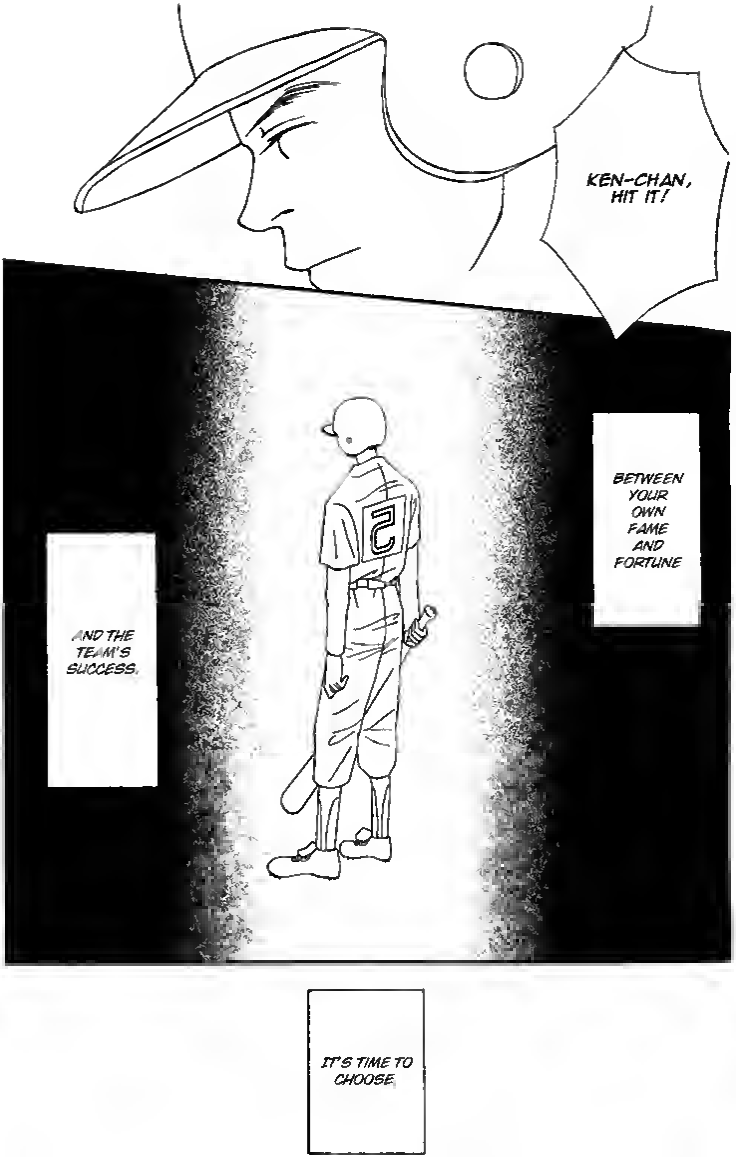
KENJI!
YOU CAN DO IT!
HIT A HOMERUN...!
KENJI...!
GLANCE
mumble
mumble
HOMERUN!
MIYASAKO!


PAT
PAT
EH?!

A BUNT ?!!


PLEASE LET KENJI HIT!
WHY, COACH?!

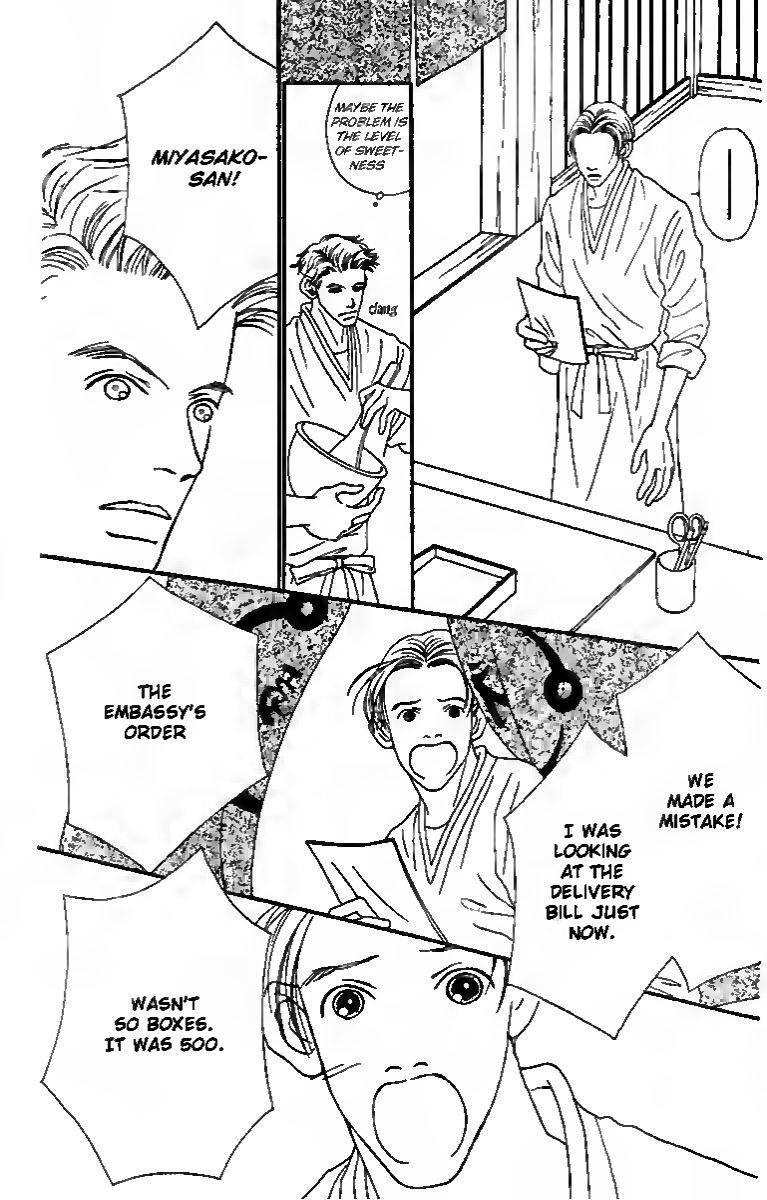
KEN...
GLARE
BUNTING IS...
AH..!
HIT A HOMERUN! HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK!
KEN-CHAN, LIFT THE BAT!
HIT A HOMERUN
YEAH! HIT IT!
HIT IT!


KEN-CHAN, HIT IT!
BETWEEN YOUR OWN FAME AND FORTUNE
AND THE TEAM'S SUCCESS.
IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE.

The British embassy -50 boxes of Red and White
AM delivery by Suzi
SCREECH
MIYASAKO-SAN, I'M LEAVING NOW
ALRIGHT. TODAY'S WORK IS DONE
THANKS FOR YOUR WORK. TOMORROW MORNING'S DELIVERY IS READY, RIGHT?
I'VE PREPARED EVERYTHING. THE SUBMISSION DATE FOR THE EXHIBITION IS TOMORROW, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE ONLY STARTING NOW? WILL YOU FINISH IT IN TIME?

T/N *Anko = Sweet red bean (azuki) paste
IT'S OKAY. I HAVE EVERYTHING PLANNED AND PREPARED
THE MADAM'S GIVEN YOU PERMISSION. YOU COULD HAVE WORKED ON IT DURING THE DAY.
I ALREADY HAVE THE ANKO*. IT'LL BE READY BY MORNING
NOW YOU'RE BEING SILLY. GO HOME ALREADY.
YES
I HEARD ARARE-SAN BRAGGING THAT MIYASAKO-SAN'S WAGASHI WILL DEFINITELY BE IN THE EXHIBITION
SHE'S SPOUTING NONSENSE AGAIN
AN, SUGI.
YES?
I HAVE TO SUBMIT THE WAGASHI IN OSAKA BY 10AM.
SEI-OJISAN ALREADY KNEW THAT BUT IF ANYONE ASKS, TELL THEM SO
EVERYONE IS PROUD OF YOU THOUGH, ESPECIALLY SEI-OJISAN

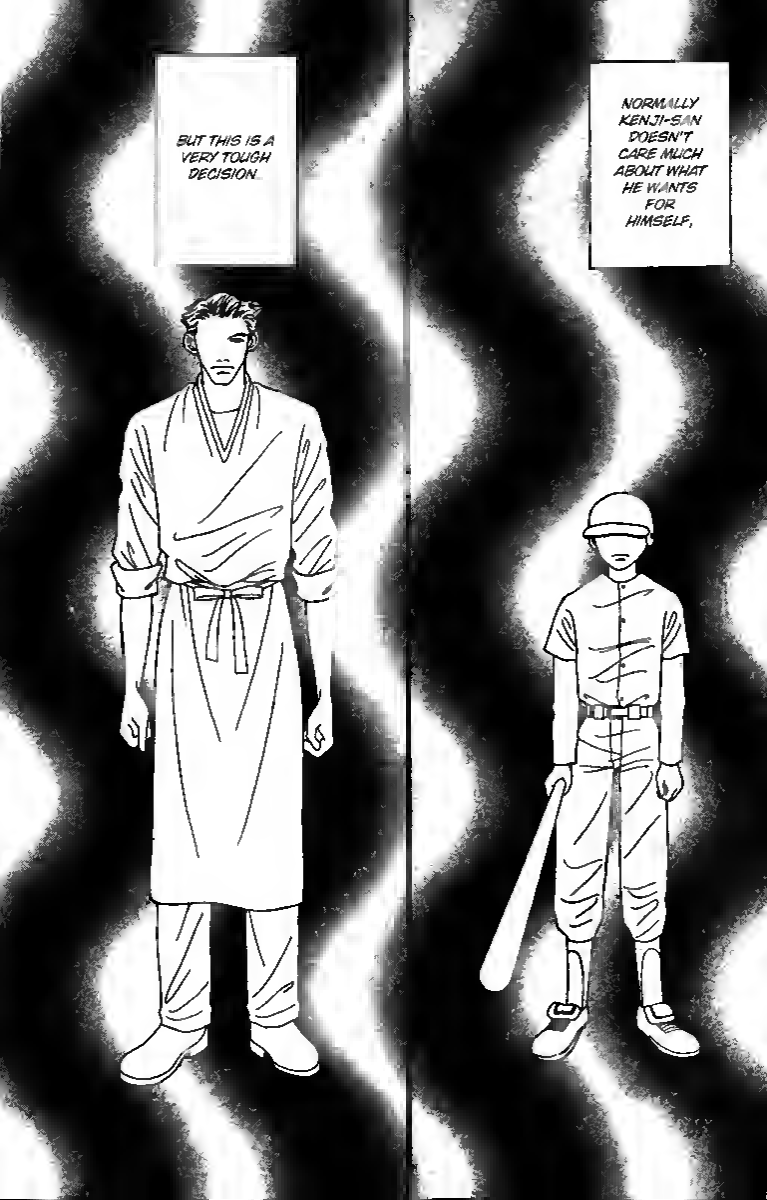
I'LL HAVE TO DELIVER THE WAGASHI TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY BY 10AM THOUGH
I ALREADY PUT IT ON THE WHITE BOARD.
I LEAVE IT IN YOUR CARE THEN.
I'M OFF NOW.
MAYBE I SHOULD PREPARE THE DELIVERY BILL BEFORE-HAND
SO WE WON'T BE BUSY TO-MORROW.
Delivery bill
Gift
FOUND IT.


MIYASAKO-SAN!
MAYBE THE PROBLEM IS THE LEVEL OF SWEETNESS
dang
1
THE EMBASSY'S ORDER
I WAS LOOKING AT THE DELIVERY BILL JUST NOW.
WE MADE A MISTAKE!
WASN'T SO BOXES. IT WAS 500.

HOW DID WE MAKE SUCH A MISTAKE?
WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO? EVERYBODY HAS LEFT. AND WE'RE SHORT 450 BOXES.
BUT THIS TIME WHEN I TOLD SEI-OJISAN THE ORDER, I LOOKED AT THE WHITE BOARD INSTEAD.
I'M SORRY. USUALLY I WOULD CHECK THE ORDER WITH THE DELIVERY BILL
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT IN TIME.
MAYBE THE ZERO WAS ACCIDENTALLY WIPED OFF

BUT THERE'S NOBODY LEFT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE 450 BOXES BY MORNING.
AND YOU HAVE YOUR SUBMISSION TO FINISH TOO, MIYASAKO-SAN.

YOUR OWN FAME AND FORTUNE,
AND YOUR RESPONSI- BILITY AS A WAGASHI CHE-


BUT THIS IS A VERY TOUGH DECISION.
NORMALLY KENJI-SAN DOESN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS FOR HIMSELF,

EVEN THOUGH... FAME AND FORTUNE IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM...

Fukuyadon Houpo
by yUCHI yayomi

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Fukuyadō Honpo
福家堂本舗
ARARE

TO HIT A HOMERUN,

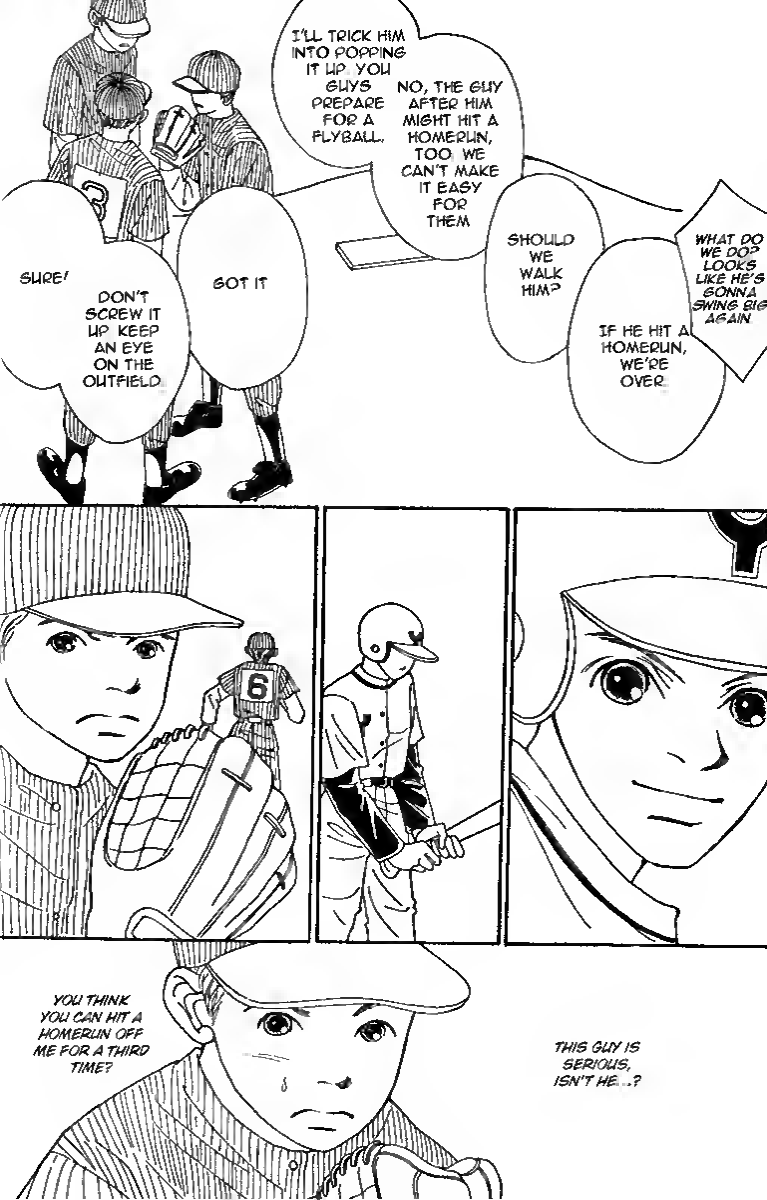
OR TO BUNT.

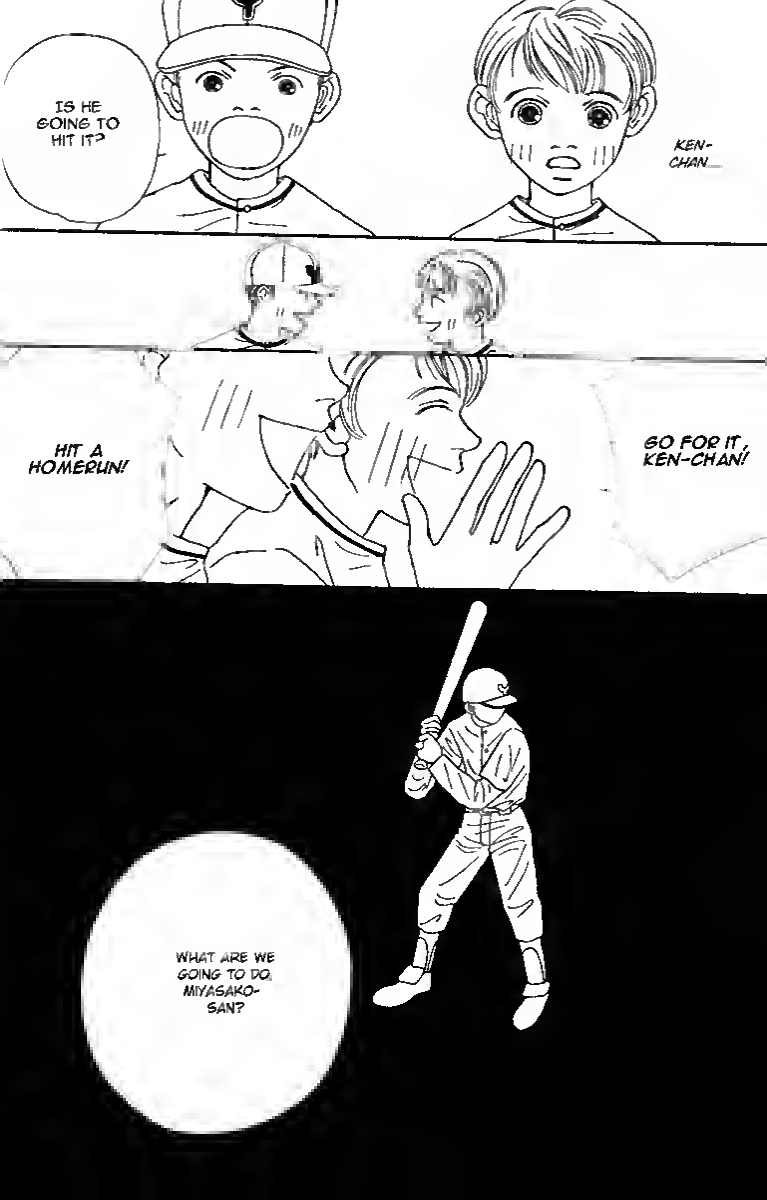
THE SCORE IS 4-5. A SITUATION WHERE AN OUT WOULD BE USELESS AND MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS.

IT'S THE DECISION THAT KENJI-SAN HAD TO MAKE WHILE AT-BAT.

THE COACH'S SIGNAL WAS TO BUNT,
AND IF KENJI-SAN FOLLOWED IT, THE RUNNER COULD ADVANCE TO SECOND.
IF THE NEXT BATTER GOT A HIT, THE RUNNER WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO SCORE
TO SECURE THE TEAM'S WIN, THE COACH CHOSE A SENSIBLE STRATEGY.
KENJI!
GO FOR IT...
SHOULD HE SACRIFICE THE TEAM'S WIN FOR HIS OWN STATISTICS?
KEN-CHAN!
ON THE OTHER HAND, KENJI-SAN COULD HAVE JUST IGNORED THE SIGNAL AND AIM FOR A HOMERUN!

BUT HONNAMI MIGHT
NO WAY IS HE GONNA HIT A HOMERUN
SOMEONE LIKE KENJI CAN'T HIT THREE HOMERUNS IN ROW
HE JUST GOT LUCKY THE FIRST TWO TIMES
BECAUSE KENJI IS IN THE WAY, YOU CAN'T BE ON THE TEAM'S
YOU'RE JEALOUS OF KENJI, AREN'T YOU?
SHUDDUP! YOU'RE ON THE RESERVE TEAM TOO!
WHAT THE HECK! HEY! TSUTOMU, DON'T LET THIS KIND OF JERK BORROW YOUR SAMURAI GIANTS MANGA!
YEAH! I WON'T LEND IT TO YOU!
WHO CARES! I'M A HANSHIN TIGERS FAN ANYWAY!
YOU'RE TOO LOUD OVER THERE!


I'LL TRICK HIM INTO POPPING IT UP. YOU GUYS PREPARE FOR A FLYBALL.
NO, THE GUY AFTER HIM MIGHT HIT A HOMERUN, TOO. WE CAN'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM
SHOULD WE WALK HIM?
WHAT DO WE DO? LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA SWING BIG AGAIN
IF HE HIT A HOMERUN, WE'RE OVER.
SURE!
DON'T SCREW IT UP. KEEP AN EYE ON THE OUTFIELD.
GOT IT
YOU THINK YOU CAN HIT A HOMERUN OFF ME FOR A THIRD TIME?
THIS GUY IS SERIOUS, ISN'T HE...?


IS HE GOING TO HIT IT?
KEN-CHAN...
HIT A HOMERUN!
GO FOR IT, KEN-CHAN!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, MIYASAKO-SAN?

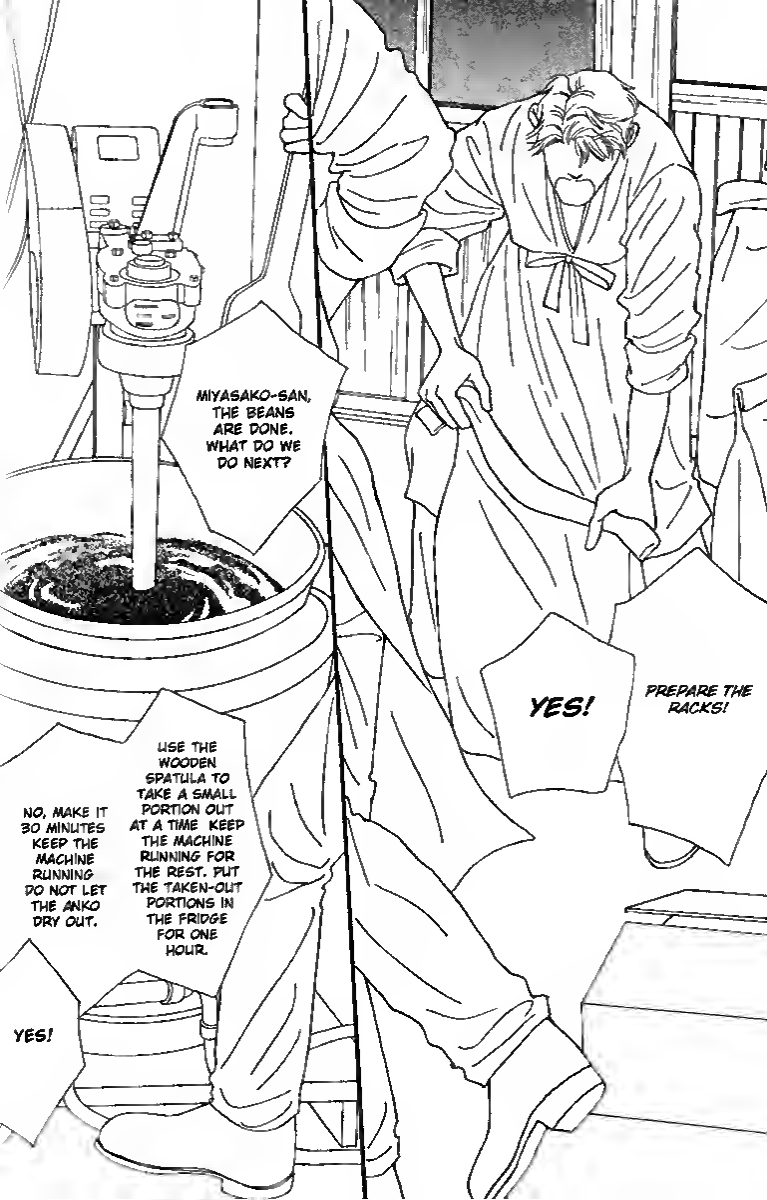
MAYBE WE SHOULD INFORM THE MADAM
TELL HER AND APOLOGIZE
KISHI IS CHANGING HIS CLOTHES
DON'T TELL SEI-OJISAN OR THE MADAM. THEY HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO TOMORROW.
...
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE LEFT IN THE SHOP?
SO THERE'RE THREE OF US. GO GET HIM.
EH?!
W... WE WON'T MAKE IT. I'LL GO APOLOGIZE TO THE MADAM MYSELF.
SAVE YOUR APOLOGY FOR TOMORROW.
LET'S DO WHAT WE CAN FOR NOW!

BUT MIYASAKO-SAN, YOUR SUBMISSION...
DON'T LET MY BLUNDER RUIN YOUR CHANCES.
I'M PREPARED TO BE SCOLDED BY THE CUSTOMERS FOR BEING IRRESPONSIBLE.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T SACRIFICE THE BIG BREAK IN YOUR CAREER FOR THIS.
EVERYONE HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, TOO.
SUGI.
YES?

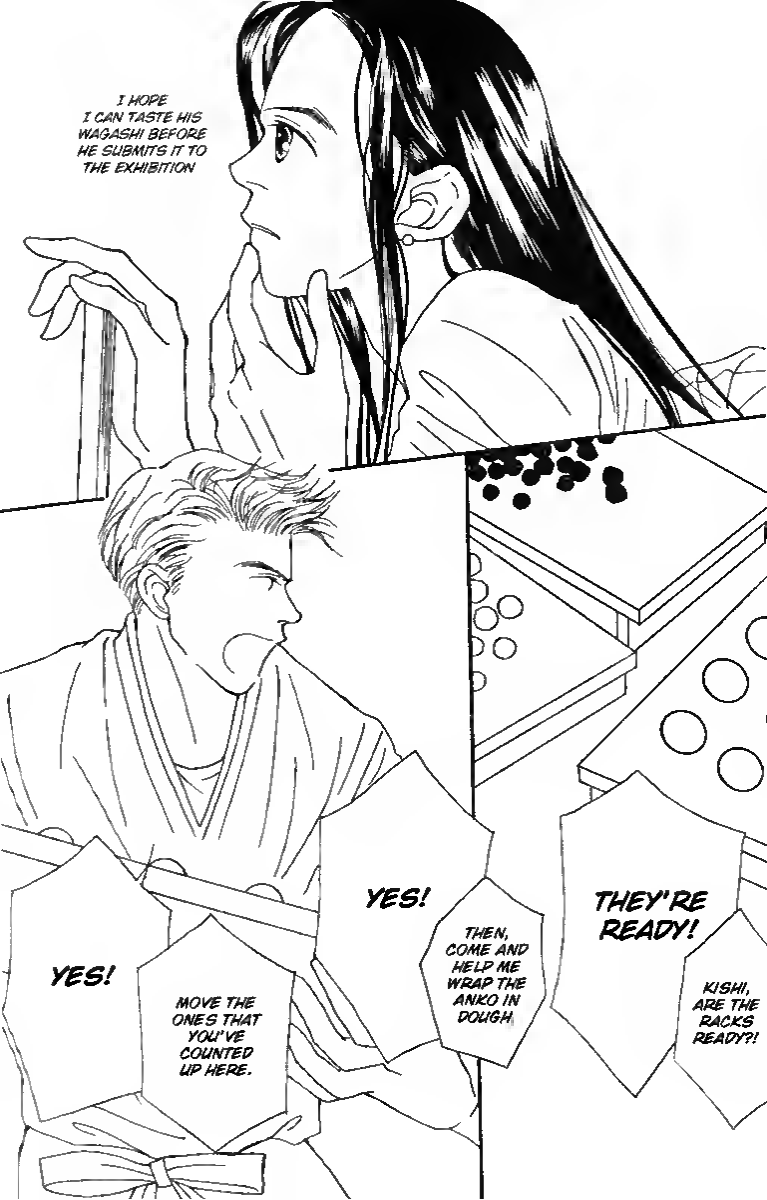
SLIDE
HOW MANY BOXES ARE LEFT?
KISHI, GIVE US A HAND
450 BOXES
HE SAID WE MISREAD THE ORDER QUANTITY.
MIYASAKO-SAN!
450 BOXES?!

THIS IS ALL WE HAVE LEFT!
The anko...!
WE DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY MORE ORDERS SO WE THOUGHT IT WAS ENOUGH.
WE WERE GOING TO MAKE MORE TOMORROW AFTER-NOON.
Okay!
Do it now!

TO FINISH THE ORDER TOMORROW IS...
BUT IT'LL TAKE A LONG TIME FOR THE PASTE TO COOL DOWN TO THE POINT THAT WE CAN USE IT.
WHEN THE BEANS ARE DONE, TAKE SOME OUT AND KEEP THE MACHINE RUNNING FOR THE REST.
KISHI!
YES!
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, GO TO THE STORAGE ROOM AND GET ENOUGH BOXES AND WRAPPING PAPER FOR 450 BOXES.
YES!
THE MORNING SHIFT WILL ARRIVE AT 6AM. WE'LL HAVE THEM HELP WITH THE PACKAGING.
YES!


MIYASAKO-SAN, THE BEANS ARE DONE. WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
YES!
PREPARE THE RACKS!
USE THE WOODEN SPATULA TO TAKE A SMALL PORTION OUT AT A TIME. KEEP THE MACHINE RUNNING FOR THE REST. PUT THE TAKEN-OUT PORTIONS IN THE FRIDGE FOR ONE HOUR.
NO, MAKE IT 30 MINUTES. KEEP THE MACHINE RUNNING. DO NOT LET THE ANKO DRY OUT.
YES!

I THOUGHT HE HAD ENOUGH
EH? KEN-CHAN IS MAKING MORE ANKO?
HM?
I'M GOING TO WAKE UP EARLY TO SPY ON HIM
HE MUST HAVE A LOT OF LEFTOVER WAGASHI
I'LL HOG THEM ALL. GOSH, I CAN'T WAIT FOR TO-MORROW!

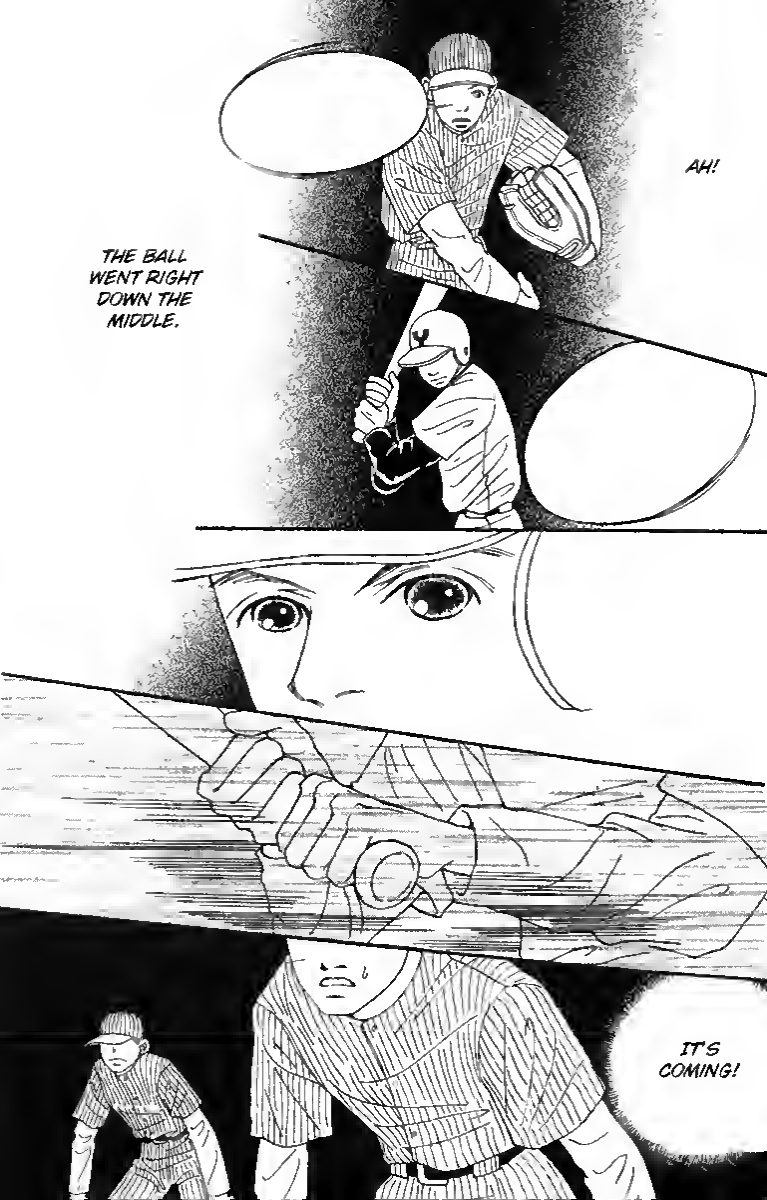

I HOPE I CAN TASTE HIS WAGASHI BEFORE HE SUBMITS IT TO THE EXHIBITION
KISHI, ARE THE RACKS READY?!
THEY'RE READY!
THEN, COME AND HELP ME WRAP THE ANKO IN DOUGH.
YES!
MOVE THE ONES THAT YOU'VE COUNTED UP HERE.
YES!

SUGI HOW ARE THE ANKO?
SOME ARE STILL HOT.
DIVIDE THEM INTO SMALLER PORTIONS AND PLACE THEM IN COOL CONTAINERS.
YES! YES!
KEN-CHAN, HIT IT! HIT A HOMERUN!

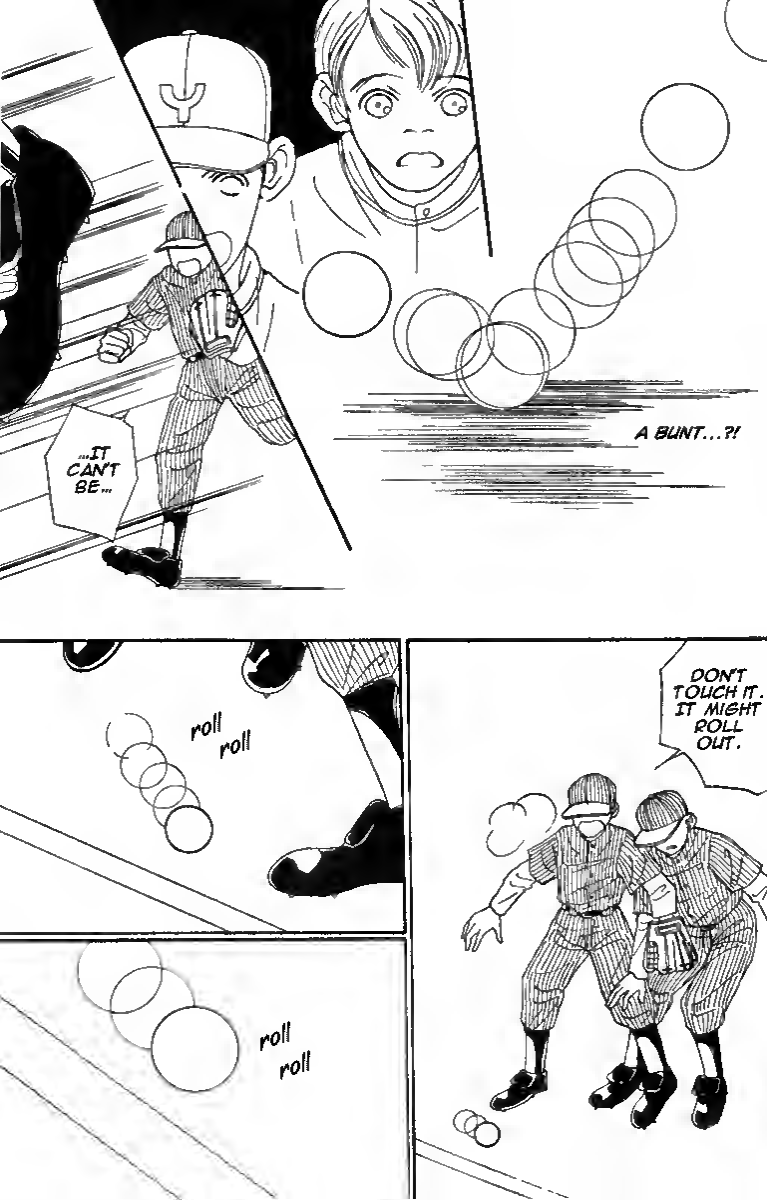
HIT A HOMER!
KENJI, GO FOR IT! PITCHER, THROW ALREADY!
MIYASAKO!
WHOOSH
Lift

grip
pap
BALL...
WHAT? HE SHOULD HAVE FALLEN FOR THAT!

KENJI, DO YOUR BEST!
DAMNIT!
PITCHER, ARE YOU A CHICKEN?
rustle


AH!
THE BALL WENT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE.
IT'S COMING!

GON


...IT CAN'T BE...
A BUNT...?!
roll
roll
roll
roll
DON'T TOUCH IT. IT MIGHT ROLL OUT.

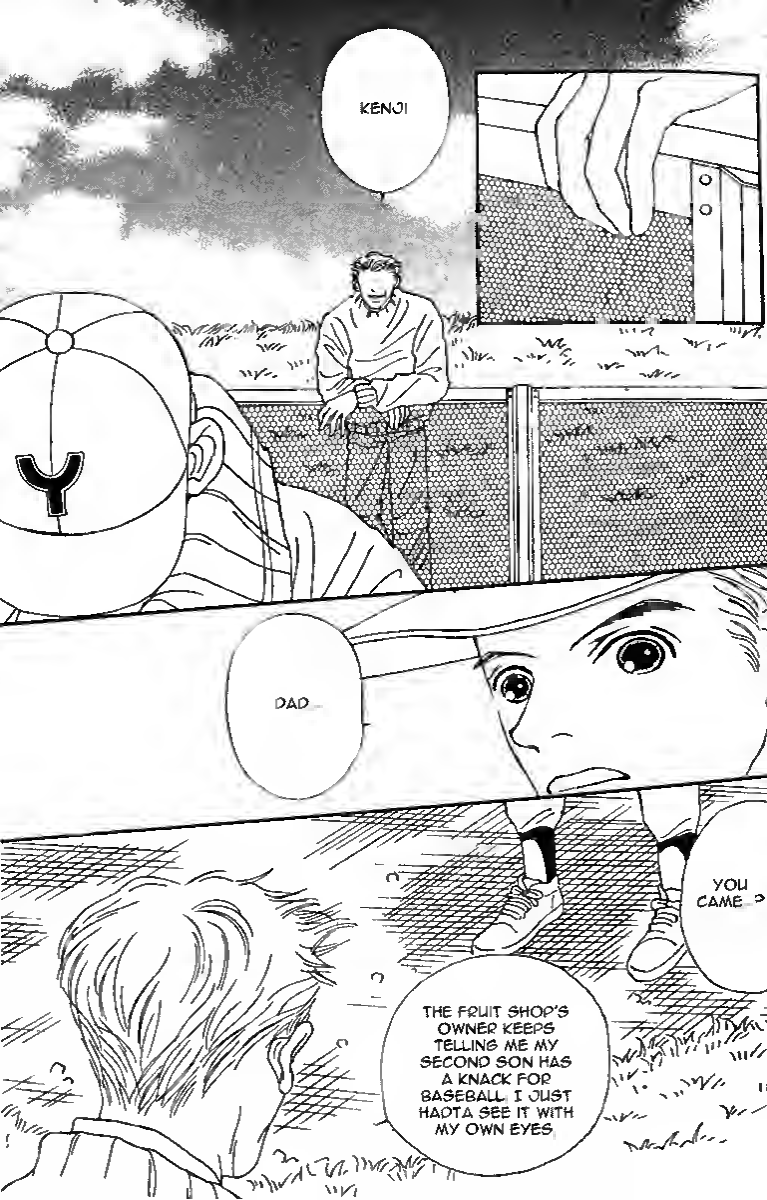
ROLL
ROLL
DRAT! THROW IT BACK!
DAMNIT!
PIP
5
SAFE!

NO.
DAMNIT!
BAM.
KEN-CHAN
I KNEW IT.
NO, I KNEW HE WOULDN'T HIT IT.

KENJI DIDN'T HIT IT BECAUSE IT WAS THE COACH'S ORDER
IF I WERE HIM, I'D HAVE IGNORED THE SIGN AND DONE WHAT I WANTED. THAT GUY'S GOT NO GUTS
HOW PATHETIC
SMACK

HONNAMI HIT A HOMERUN! INCREDIBLE!
WE WON BY A MILE!
HOORAY!
LATER, THE BOY WHO HIT THAT HOMERUN BECAME A J. LEAGUE STAR.
THIS GAME'S RECORD OF 3 HOMERUNS FROM A SINGLE PLAYER FOR THE SHITENNOUJI YANCHA BOSS REMAINS LEGENDARY TO THIS DAY.

KEN-CHAN
TSUTOMU, GO HOME WITHOUT ME TODAY.

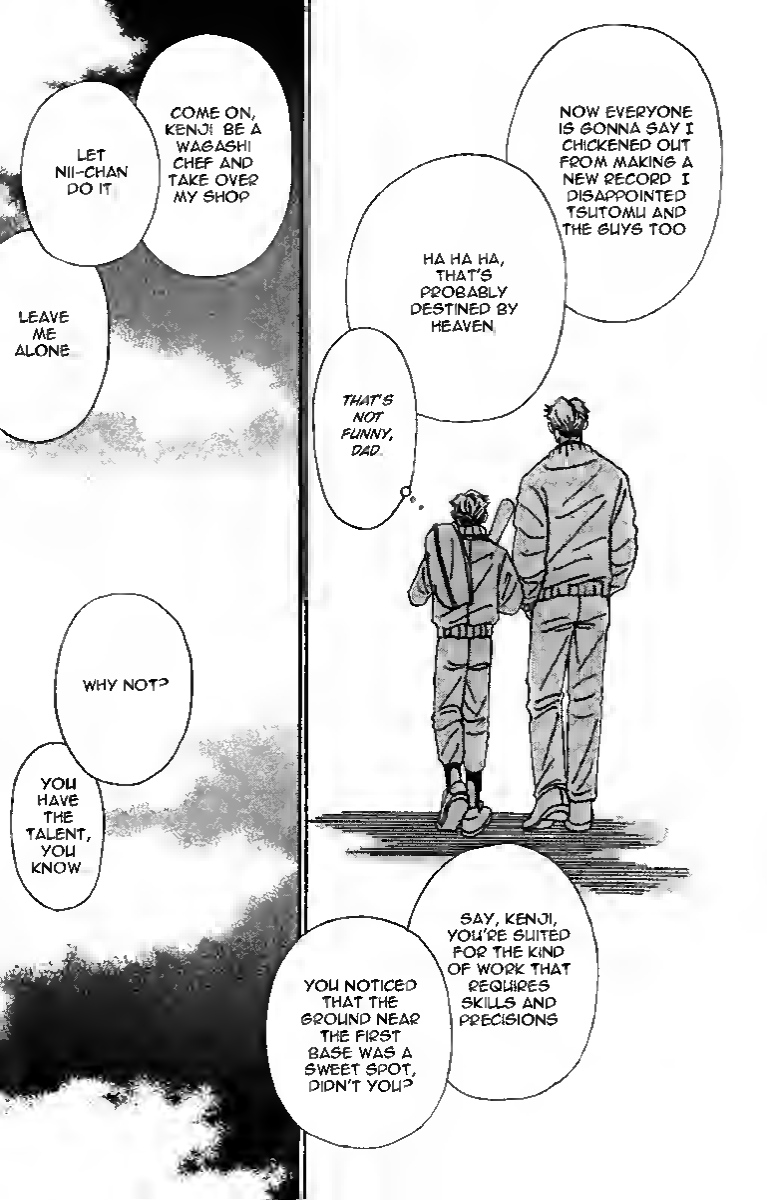

KENJI
DAD...
YOU CAME...?
THE FRUIT SHOP'S OWNER KEEPS TELLING ME MY SECOND SON HAS A KNACK FOR BASEBALL. I JUST HADTA SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

I ACTUALLY WANTED TO HIT IT SO BADLY.

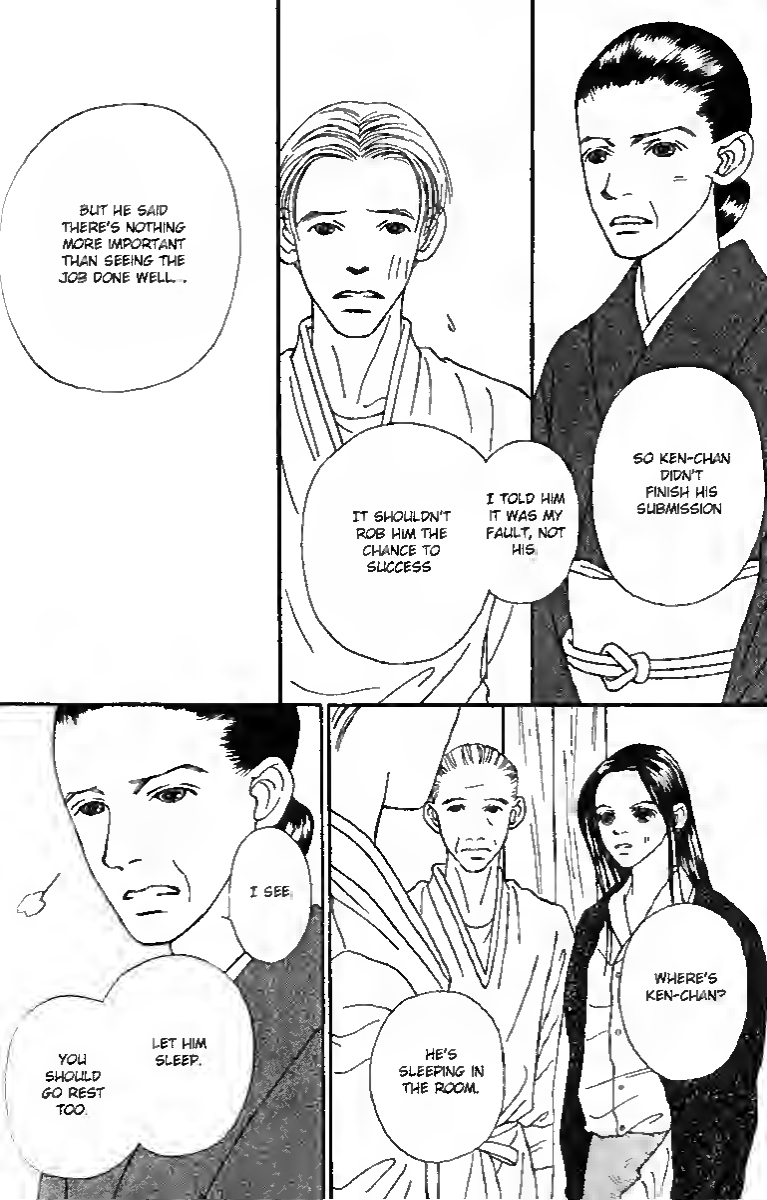
I WANTED TO RISK IT ALL AND SEE WHO WAS BETTER
...
WHY DIDN'T YOU HIT IT?
...
BECAUSE THE OTHER TEAM THOUGHT I'D SWING BIG.
IF I BUNTED, IT'D CATCH THEM OFF-GUARD. AND WE'D HAVE MORE OF A CHANCE TO WIN.

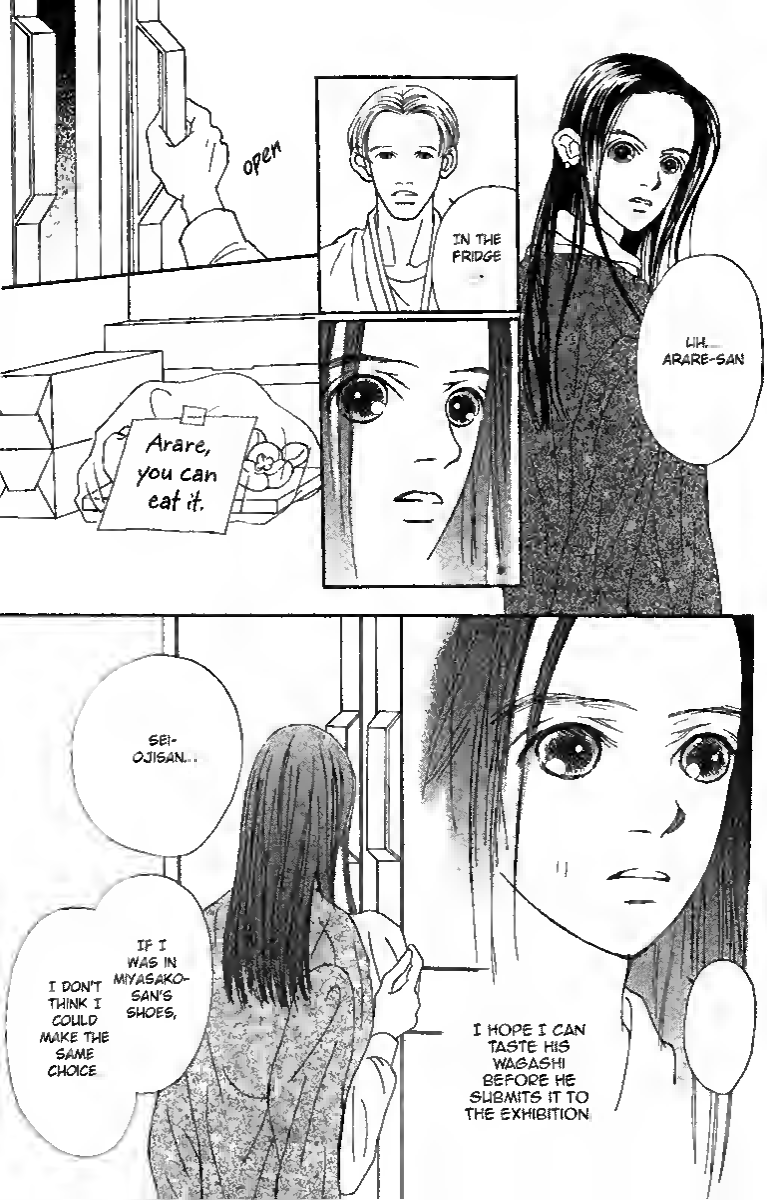
FOR ME, THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN MAKING SURE THE TEAM WINS
I SEE.
...
A REALLY AMAZING BOY.
HAS AN INCREDIBLE SENSE IN SPORTS HE'S EXTRAORDINARY FOR HIS AGE.
YOUR TEAM'S CLEANUP

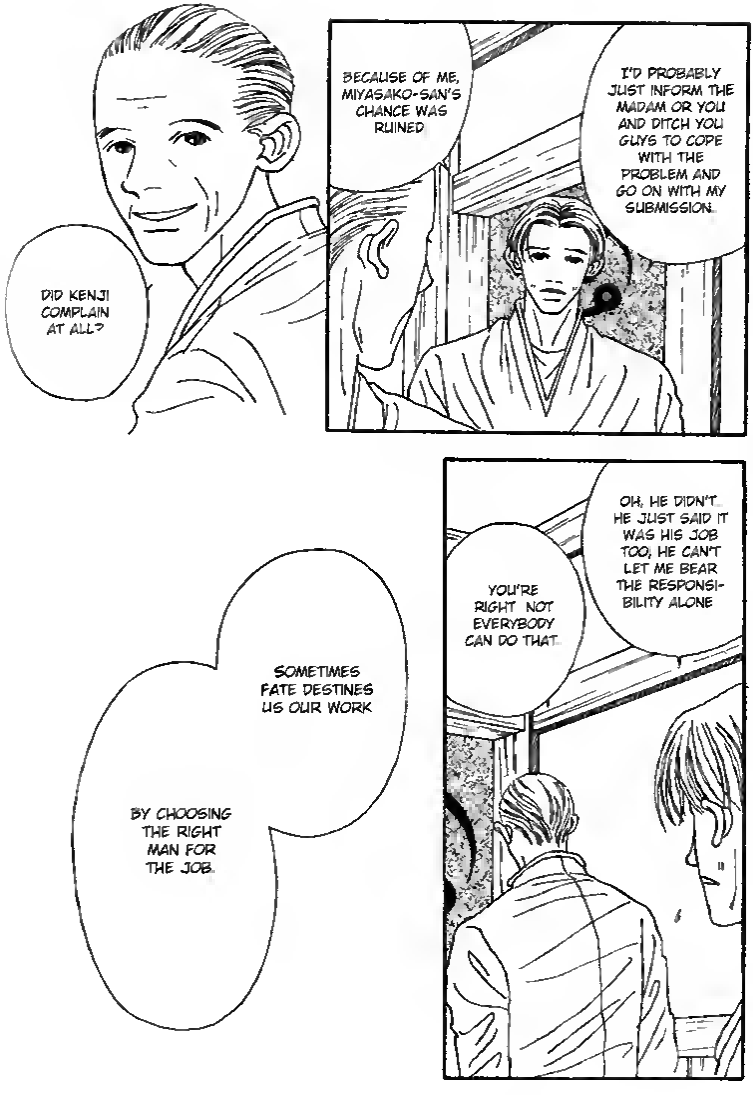
BUT KENJI, IN MY OPINION, THE TIME YOU DECIDED TO BUNT WITHOUT A HESITATION WAS AMAZING TOO.
THE PLAYER WHO HITS HOMERUNS AND THE PLAYER WHO SECURES THE WIN FOR THE TEAM WITHOUT CARING ABOUT HIS OWN STATISTICS ARE EQUALLY GOOD PLAYERS
ruffle
ruffle
YOU DID WELL, SON.


NOW EVERYONE IS GONNA SAY I CHICKENED OUT FROM MAKING A NEW RECORD I DISAPPOINTED TSUTOMU AND THE GUYS TOO
HA HA HA, THAT'S PROBABLY DESTINED BY HEAVEN
THAT'S NOT FUNNY, DAD.
SAY, KENJI, YOU'RE SUITED FOR THE KIND OF WORK THAT REQUIRES SKILLS AND PRECISIONS
YOU NOTICED THAT THE GROUND NEAR THE FIRST BASE WAS A SWEET SPOT, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY NOT?
YOU HAVE THE TALENT, YOU KNOW
LEAVE ME ALONE
LET NII-CHAN DO IT
COME ON, KENJI BE A WAGASHI CHEF AND TAKE OVER MY SHOP

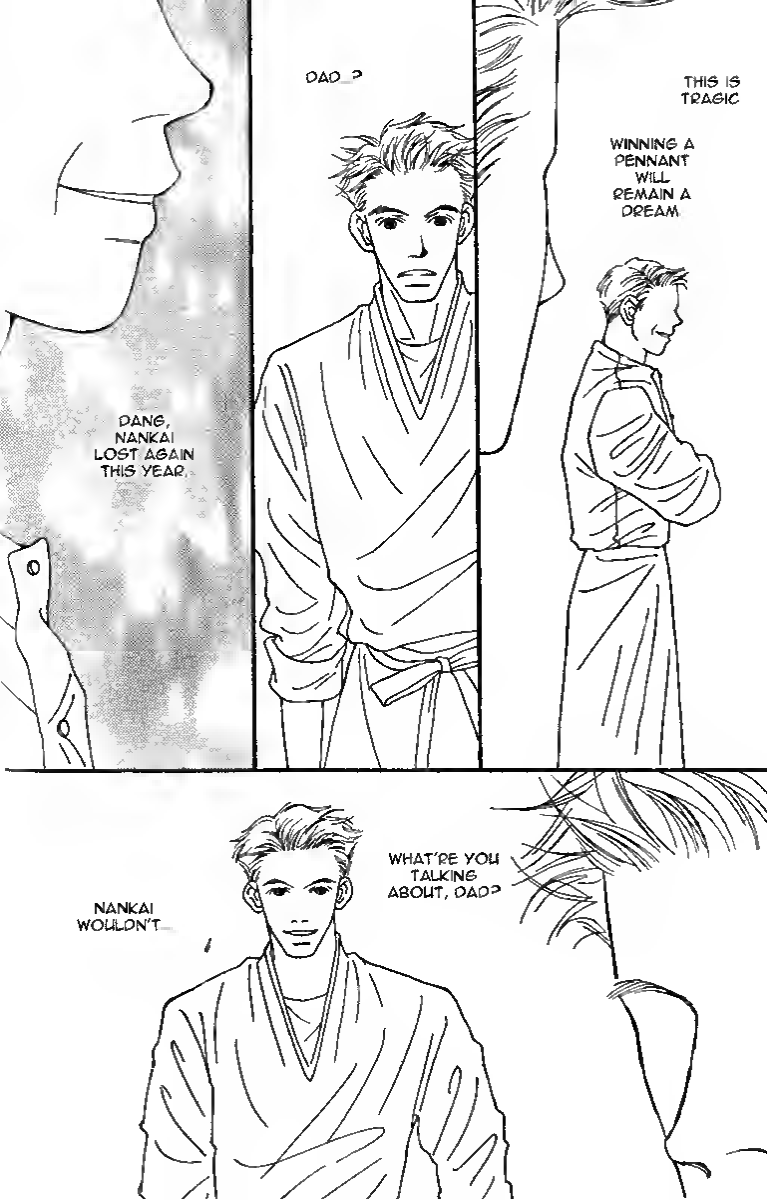
I'M DEEPLY SORRY FOR CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR THE SHOP.
WATANUKI JUST LEFT TO DELIVER THE 500 BOXES ORDER.
MIYASAKO-SAN HAS ALREADY CALLED TO NOTIFY THEM.


BUT HE SAID THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN SEEING THE JOB DONE WELL..
IT SHOULDN'T ROB HIM THE CHANCE TO SUCCESS
I TOLD HIM IT WAS MY FAULT, NOT HIS.
SO KEN-CHAN DIDN'T FINISH HIS SUBMISSION
I SEE.
YOU SHOULD GO REST TOO.
LET HIM SLEEP.
HE'S SLEEPING IN THE ROOM.
WHERE'S KEN-CHAN?


open
IN THE FRIDGE
UH... ARARE-SAN
Arare, you can eat it.
SEI-OJISAN...
IF I WAS IN MIYASAKO-SAN'S SHOES,
I DON'T THINK I COULD MAKE THE SAME CHOICE
I HOPE I CAN TASTE HIS WAGASHI BEFORE HE SUBMITS IT TO THE EXHIBITION


DID KENJI COMPLAIN AT ALL?
BECAUSE OF ME, MIYASAKO-SAN'S CHANCE WAS RUINED
I'D PROBABLY JUST INFORM THE MADAM OR YOU AND DITCH YOU GUYS TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM AND GO ON WITH MY SUBMISSION.
OH, HE DIDN'T. HE JUST SAID IT WAS HIS JOB TOO; HE CAN'T LET ME BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY ALONE
YOU'RE RIGHT. NOT EVERYBODY CAN DO THAT.
SOMETIMES FATE DESTINES US OUR WORK
BY CHOOSING THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM TODAY? HE CAN'T GET INTO FORM AT ALL
THE PITCHER CAN'T FIND HIS STRIKE ZONE!
BALL FOUR BALL!
WHAT? ANOTHER WALK?


DANG, NANKAI LOST AGAIN THIS YEAR.
DAD...?
THIS IS TRAGIC
WINNING A PENNANT WILL REMAIN A DREAM
NANKAI WOULDN'T...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DAD?

YOU DID WELL...
AH... KENJI.
SON.
AH!
BANG

(T/N: The Nankai Hawks moved to Fukuoka in 1988 and changed the name to Fukuoka Daiei Hawks. In 2005 the team was bought by Softbank Corporation and right now known as The Fukuoka Softbank Hawks.)

THE NANKAI HAWKS HAVE NOW BECOME THE FUKUOKA DAIEI HAWKS*

IN NOVEMBER 1993, THE NEW BASEBALL STADIUM WAS BUILT.

THE STADIUM THAT KENJI-SAN WENT TO WITH HIS DAD

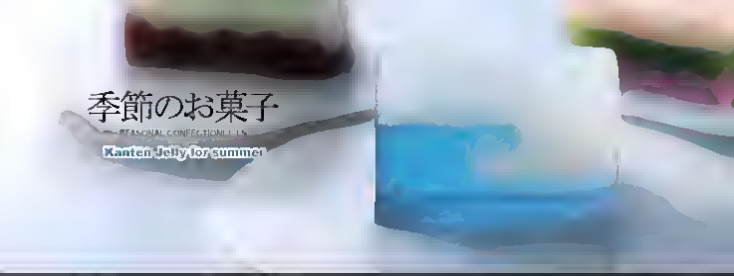
HAD BEEN TORN DOWN AND BUILT INTO RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND PARKING LOTS.

OUT OF THE PARK HOMERUN!

THE BALL FLIES TOWARD THE LEFTFIELD AND... IT'S A HOMERUN!

A BIG HIT!

ONLY 30 MINUTES INTO THE GAME AT THE FUKUOKA DOME STADIUM AND THE SCORE IS ALREADY 0-8. THE PITCHER IS OFF THE MOUND NOW.
THE PITCHER CAN'T BELIEVE HIS EYES.
DANG
THE HAWKS LOST AGAIN THIS YEAR.



Fukuyadou Honpo
by YUCHI Yayomi

Scanned & Translated by : Chihaya
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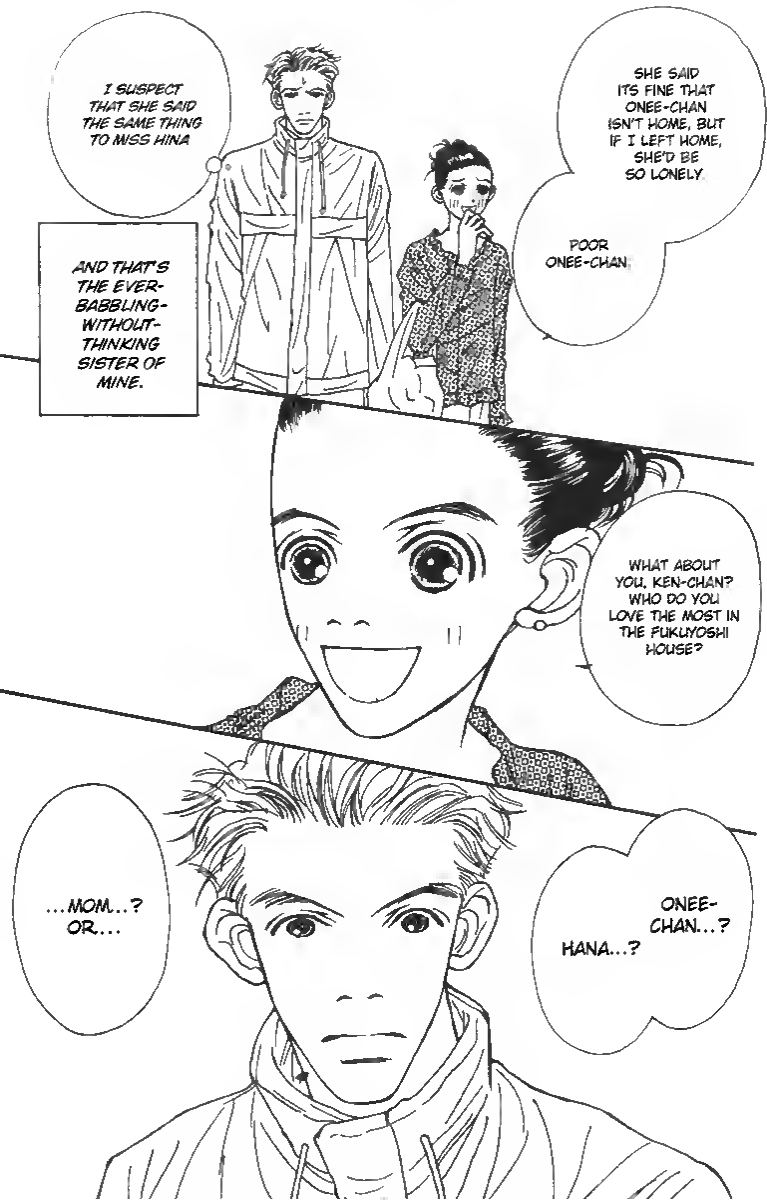
Proof read by : Maverick
Editted by : Menfeng
Quality checked by : Kiltmorman

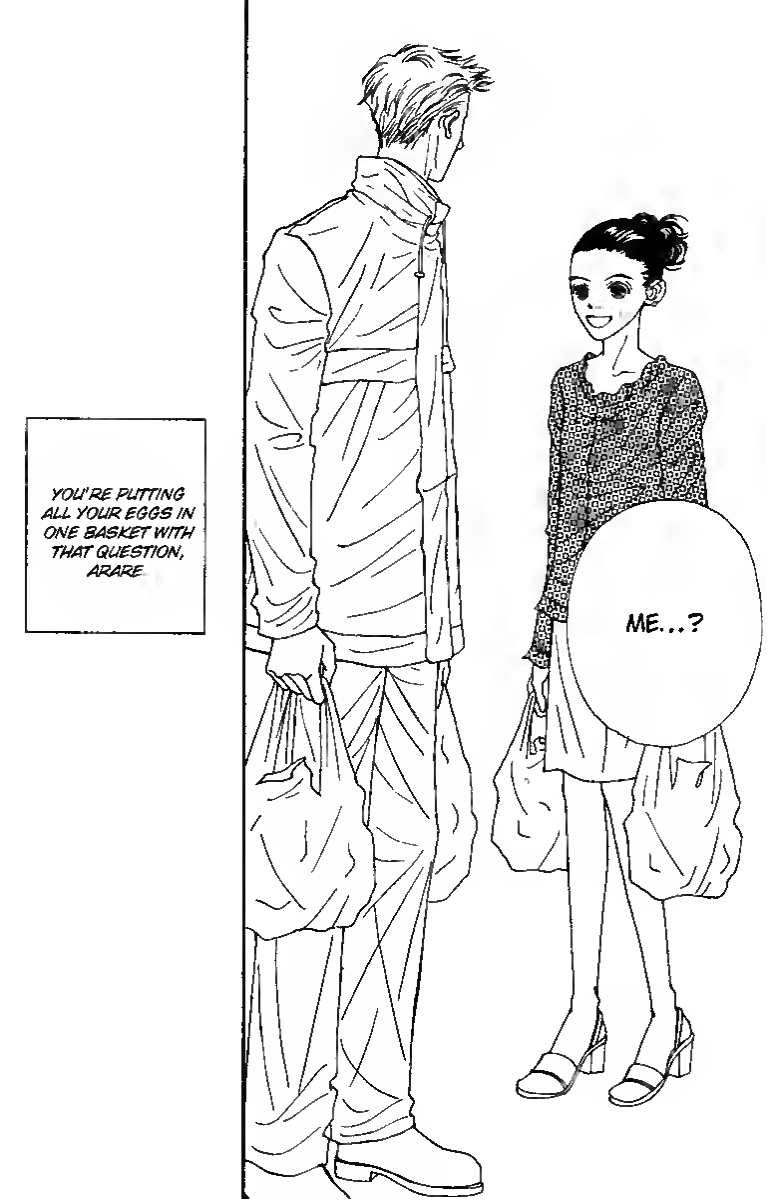
Fukuyadō Honpo

福家堂本舗

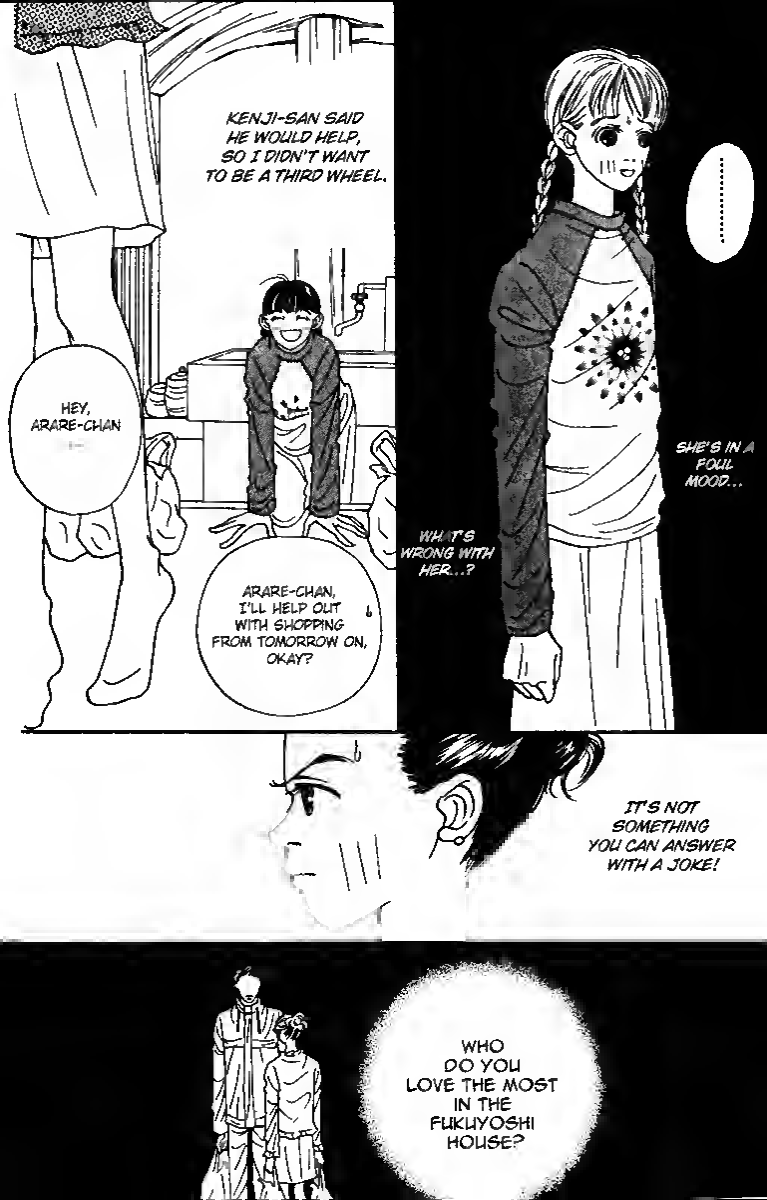
Who is your favorite in this house? (1)

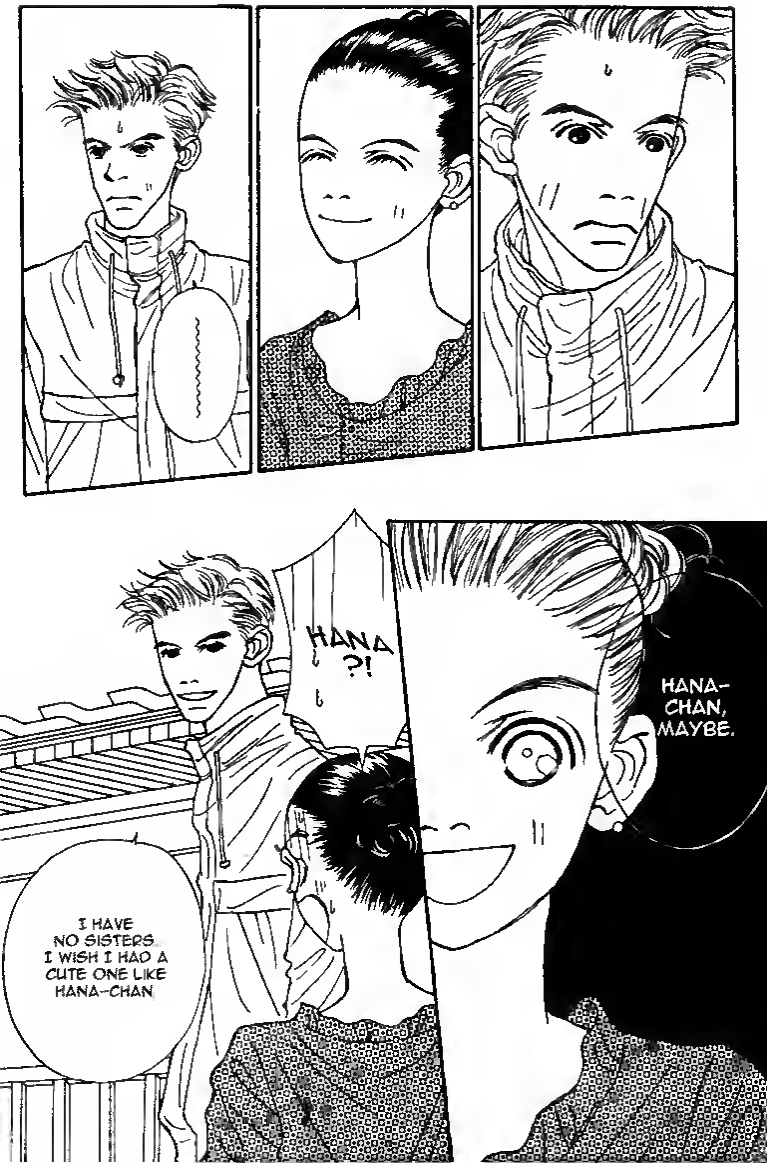
ONE SPRING DAY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HER.
IT SHOULD BE HANA'S JOB TO DO THE SHOPPING, NOT ME.
ALL SHE DOES AFTER COMING HOME FROM SCHOOL IS PLAY
SHE SHOULD OFFER TO HELP OUT IN THE SHOP!
You guys spoil her rotten.
AS IF YOU HELPED OUT AT ALL IN YOUR DAYS.
BUT HANA IS A CUTE SISTER.
SHE TOLD ME SHE LOVED ME THE MOST IN THIS HOUSE


I SUSPECT THAT SHE SAID THE SAME THING TO MISS HINA
SHE SAID ITS FINE THAT ONEE-CHAN ISN'T HOME, BUT IF I LEFT HOME, SHE'D BE SO LONELY.
POOR ONEE-CHAN.
AND THAT'S THE EVER-BABBLING-WITHOUT-THINKING SISTER OF MINE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEN-CHAN? WHO DO YOU LOVE THE MOST IN THE FUKUYOSHI HOUSE?
...MOM...? OR...
ONEE-CHAN...? HANA...?


YOU'RE PUTTING ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET WITH THAT QUESTION, ARARE.
ME...?

AH. ARARE-CHAN YOU'RE HOME.
SORRY I DIDN'T GO WITH YOU
Were the bags very heavy?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HANA, YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THE SHOPPING FROM NOW ON.
WHAT?!
Why all of the sudden?
H-HOLD ON, ARARE-CHAN!
Tyrant!
BECAUSE I SAID SO.


KENJI-SAN SAID HE WOULD HELP, SO I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A THIRD WHEEL.
HEY, ARARE-CHAN
ARARE-CHAN, I'LL HELP OUT WITH SHOPPING FROM TOMORROW ON, OKAY?
.....
SHE'S IN A FOUL MOOD...
WH IT'S WRONG WITH HER...?
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN ANSWER WITH A JOKE!
WHO DO YOU LOVE THE MOST IN THE FUKUYOSHI HOUSE?


HANA ?!
HANA-CHAN, MAYBE.
I HAVE NO SISTERS. I WISH I HAD A CUTE ONE LIKE HANA-CHAN

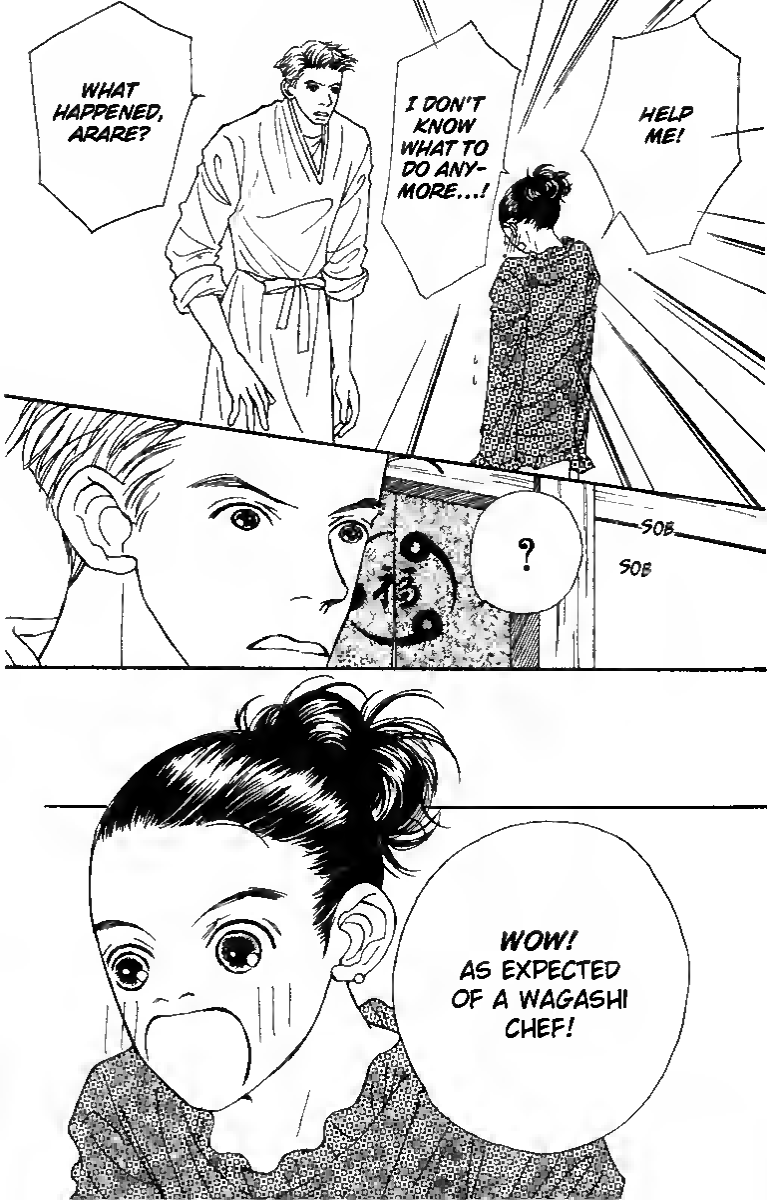
N-NO! NOT BROTHER-SISTER LOVE!
I MEANT... SOMETHING LIKE... WHO DO YOU FIND THE MOST CHARMING?!
HMM... IN THAT CASE...
MAYBE THE MADAM?
I ADMIRE HOW TOUGH SHE IS
N...
NOT LIKE THAT!!

DON'T YOU KNOW THERE IS A VERY ATTRACTIVE WOMAN STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?
CAN'T YOU JUST SAY "I LOVE YOU, ARARE"?
This may look like alcohol, but it isn't
AND DON'T YOU KNOW THAT KENJI-SAN ISN'T SOMEONE WHO CAN SAY THAT LIGHTLY?
SIGH
HANA, GO TELL ONEE-CHAN THAT I'M BACK.
HMPH!
HINOYAMA-SAN FORGOT SOMETHING AT HOME. HE CALLED TO ASK HER TO BRING IT TO THE COMPANY FOR HIM.
SO...
SHE LEFT A FEW MINUTES AGO
SHE ISN'T HERE.
WHAT?

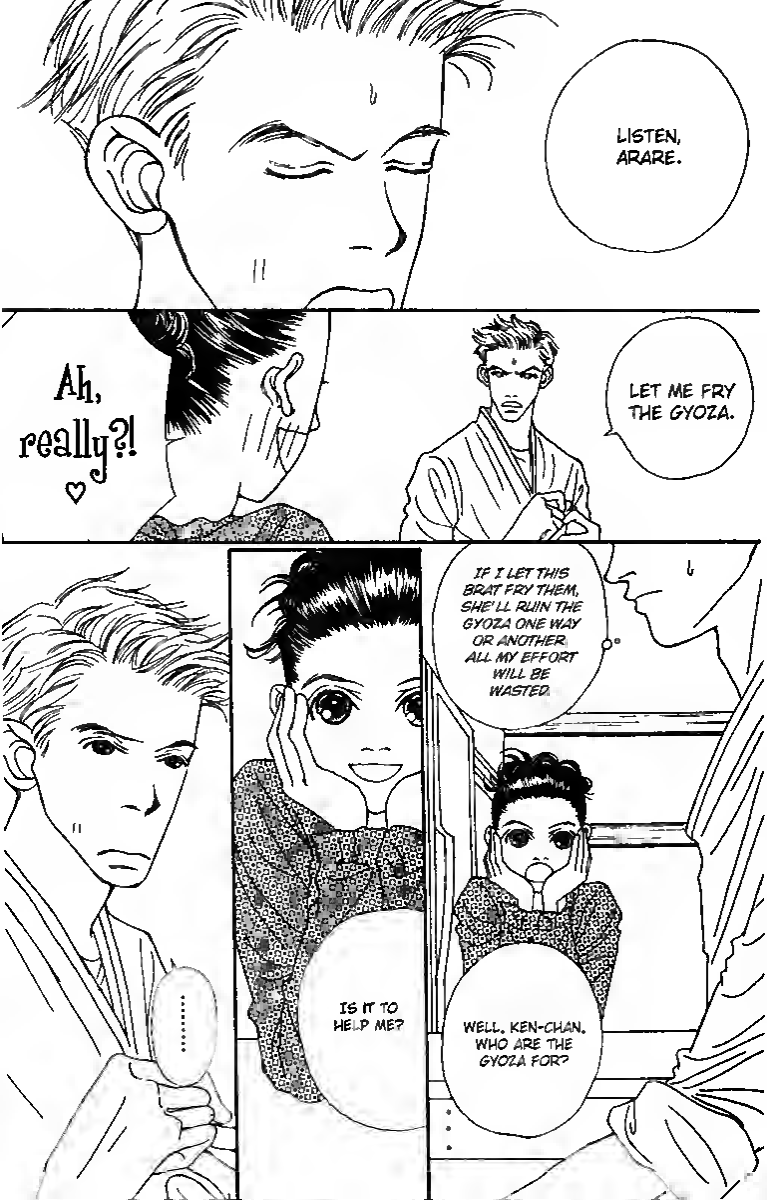
.....
HERE'S THE RECIPE ♡
TODAY'S MENU IS GYOZA. THE RECIPE IS SO DETAILED THAT EVEN ARARE CAN MAKE IT.
From Once-chan to you.
HUH?! KENJI? WITH ARARE?!
YES. WITH ARARE. IT'S A SECRET, OKAY? SHE'LL HAVE A FIT IF SHE KNOWS WE TALK ABOUT HER.
KOMA-CHAN..
DIDN'T YOU TRY TO PAIR HIM UP WITH HINA-CHAN LAST TIME?
When did it become Arare?

BUT HE NEVER SAID A WORD BACK WHEN YOU PRESSURED HIM ABOUT HINA-CHAN.
I'M EXPECTING A FAVORABLE ANSWER FROM KEN-CHAN
OR MAYBE SHE PUSHED HIM SO MUCH HE STOPPED PAYING ATTENTION AND BECAME INDIFFERENT?
I ALREADY MADE AN OFFER, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS.
I WANTED TO CONSULT YOU BECAUSE PRESSING HIM FOR AN ANSWER ISN'T WISE.
SO THIS IS HER STRATEGY IF THE MAN IS UNMOVED, PROD SOMEONE TO MEDDLE SO HE CAN'T ESCAPE.
IF SEI-OJISAN WAS SAYING IT, WOULDN'T KEN-CHAN BE SURE TO AGREE?
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?! IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE OF OUR SHOP, YOU KNOW. PLEASE, SEI-OJISAN!
UHM... BUT THIS MATTER IS FOR HIM AND ARARE TO DECIDE
UHH...
SHE EXPECTS THIS MUCH FROM KENJI, HUH?

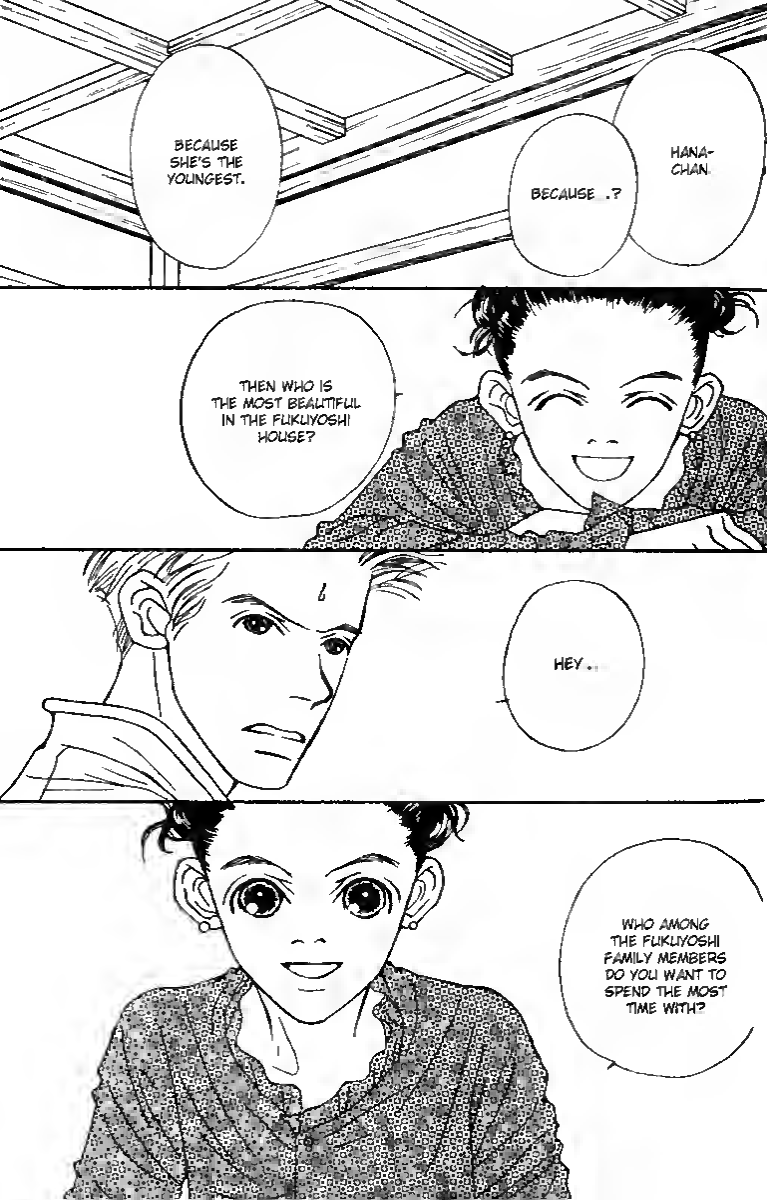
YOU'RE RIGHT...
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
A VACATION?
ARARE HASN'T HAD A DAY OFF SINCE SHE STARTED WORKING FOR THE SHOP. MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE HER A VACATION.
THAT'S RIGHT, KOMA-CHAN.
RUSTLE
SOH
6


WHAT HAPPENED, ARARE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY-MORE...!
HELP ME!
SOB SOB
?
WOW! AS EXPECTED OF A WAGASHI CHEF!

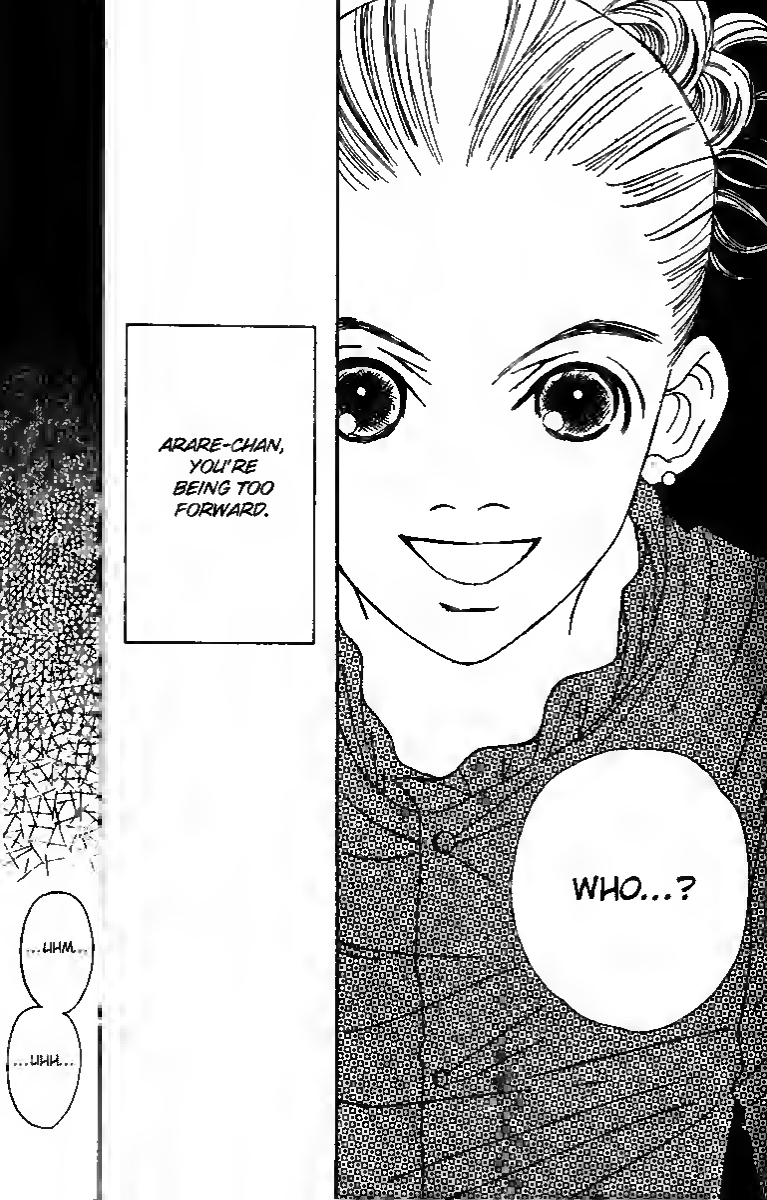
SO PRETTY. TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE.
WOW!
AMAZING!
Arare's
Gyoza
.....
COOKING...
WHAT'S MIYASAKO-SAN DOING?
ONEE-CHAN IS THE WORST. HOW COULD SHE LEAVE WORK HALF-DONE?!
COOKING...?!
ARARE-SAN CAME TO HIM CRYING.
WELL! THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN MAKE MIYASAKO-SAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS ARARE.
Same thought
...
ANYWAY, MIYASAKO-SAN'S FOOD WOULD BE MUCH SAFER THAN ARARE'S COOKING.

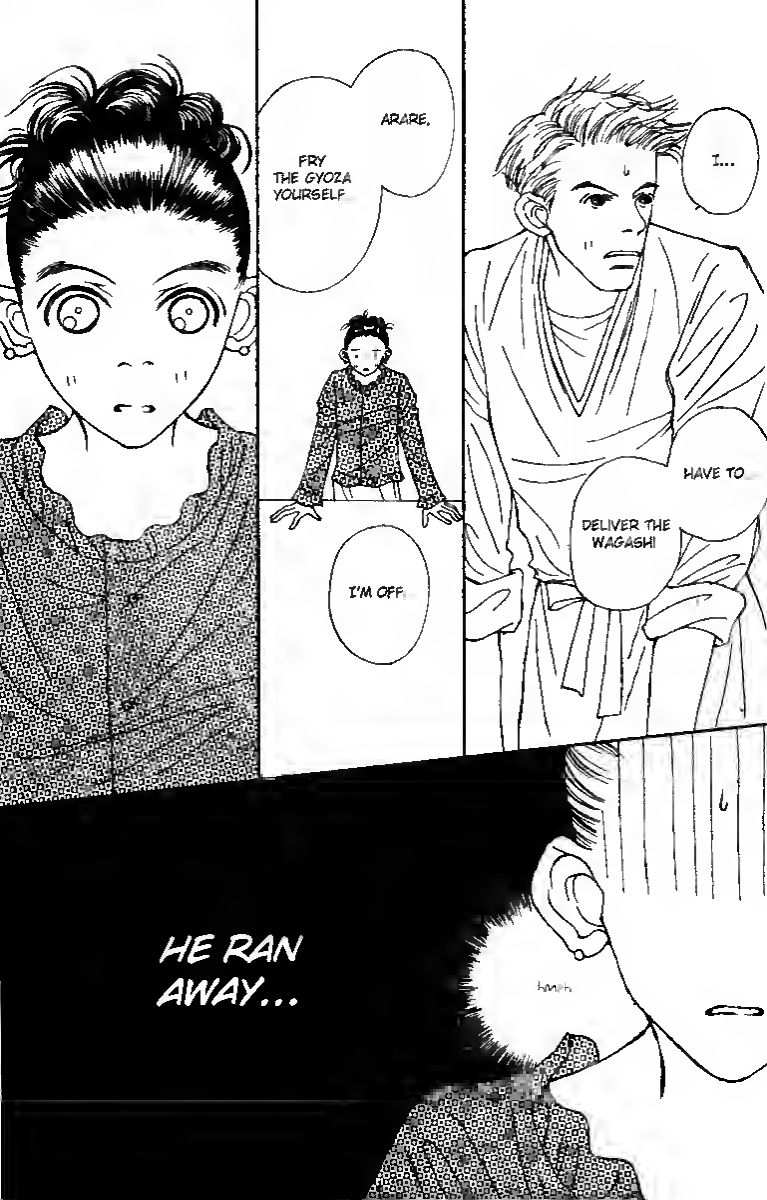

LISTEN, ARARE.
Ah, really?!
LET ME FRY THE GYOZA.
IF I LET THIS BRAT FRY THEM, SHE'LL RUIN THE GYOZA ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. ALL MY EFFORT WILL BE WASTED.
IS IT TO HELP ME?
WELL, KEN-CHAN, WHO ARE THE GYOZA FOR?
.....
.....

HEY KEN-CHAN, SAY, IF THE PEOPLE IN THE FUKUYOSHI FAMILY WERE DROWNING,
WHO WOULD YOU SAVE FIRST?
I MADE THEM FOR EVERYONE TO EAT
GEEZ...
.....
THEN IF THE PEOPLE IN THIS HOUSE WERE HAVING A FIGHT, WHOSE SIDE WOULD YOU TAKE?
THE MADAM
WHY?
BECAUSE HER HEALTH IS POOR

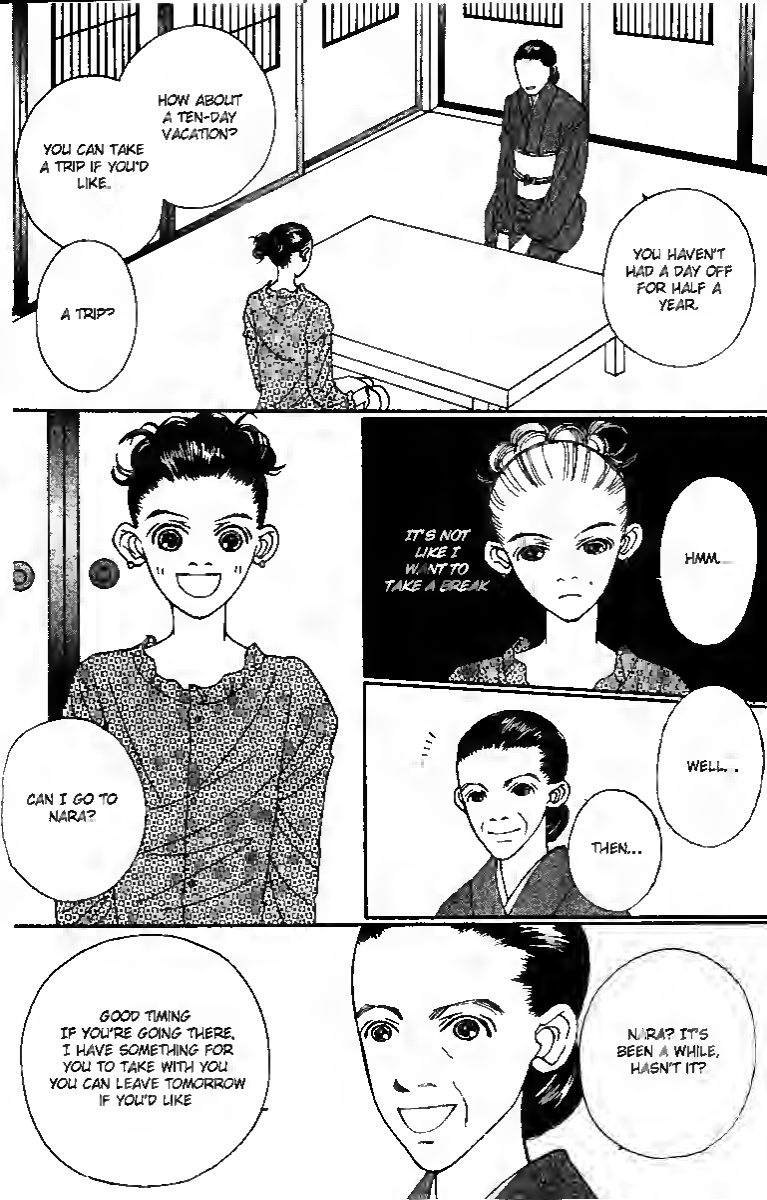

HANA-CHAN.
BECAUSE .?
BECAUSE SHE'S THE YOUNGEST.
THEN WHO IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE FUKUYOSHI HOUSE?
HEY..
WHO AMONG THE FUKUYOSHI FAMILY MEMBERS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND THE MOST TIME WITH?

WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON TO YOU IN THE FUKUYOSHI HOUSE?


ARARE-CHAN, YOU'RE BEING TOO FORWARD.
WHO...?
...UHM...
...UHH...


ARARE.
FRY THE GYOZA YOURSELF
I'M OFF
I...
HAVE TO DELIVER THE WAGASHI
HE RAN AWAY...
hmph

SCARY...
SHE'S REALLY IN A TERRIBLE MOOD TODAY.
I KNOW! I'LL GO NOW.
ARARE-CHAN, MOM IS LOOKING FOR YOU.
WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT?!
I WAS ALREADY COMING ON TO YOU STRONGLY... WHAT'S WITH THAT COWARDLY ESCAPE?
IF YOU HAD ANY COMMON DECENCY, YOU WOULD REPLY WITH "OF COURSE, IT'S ARARE", RIGHT?
IT WOULD CALM ME RIGHT DOWN.
VACATION?


YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DAY OFF FOR HALF A YEAR.
HOW ABOUT A TEN-DAY VACATION?
YOU CAN TAKE A TRIP IF YOU'D LIKE.
A TRIP?
HMM...
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO TAKE A BREAK.
WELL...
THEN...
CAN I GO TO NARA?
NARA? IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
GOOD TIMING IF YOU'RE GOING THERE, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO TAKE WITH YOU YOU CAN LEAVE TOMORROW IF YOU'D LIKE

AND HINA'S WEDDING PHOTO ALBUMS.
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS.
DON'T SNAG IT FOR YOURSELF ON THE WAY. AND THIS IS GREEN TEA AND SOME PORCELAIN FOR HER.
IT'S YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S FAVORITE WAGASHI.
WHAT'S GOING ON ...?
SHE WAS DEVASTATED. YOU SHOULD SHOW HER THE PHOTOS.
BECAUSE SHE HURT HER KNEE AND HAD TO STAY IN THE HOSPITAL.
OH YEAH. GRANDMA DIDN'T COME TO ONEE-CHAN'S WEDDING.
OKAY.
DON'T FORGET ANYTHING. PACK YOUR THINGS TONIGHT.
EH? NARA? I WANNA GO TOO!
HANA, I'M GOING TO NARA TOMORROW.

YOU CAN GO DURING SUMMER BREAK.
AWW, I ENVY YOU, ARARE-CHAN.
AND HANA, COME OVER HERE
HOW ARE KEN-CHAN AND ARARE DOING THESE DAYS?
YES?
WHAT? NOTHING'S CHANGED?
LIKE BEING CLOSER TO EACH OTHER? GOING OUT TOGETHER MORE OFTEN? ANYTHING?
THE SAME, I SUPPOSE?
DOING WELL.
THEY'RE...
HOW ARE THEY DOING?

STOP KIDDING ME
YOU KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
All my plans for nothing?
OH, THEY WENT OUT SHOPPING FOR THE SHOP TOGETHER TODAY
Why is everyone so scary today?
HMM... HOW TO SAY IT ..?
COMPARED TO THE PAST, THEIR RELATIONSHIP HAS GREATLY IMPROVED.
BUT KENJI-SAN SEEMS TO AVOID ARARE-CHAN FOR SOME REASON.
MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO KEEP HIS DISTANCE?
sigh
MY, KEN-CHAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...

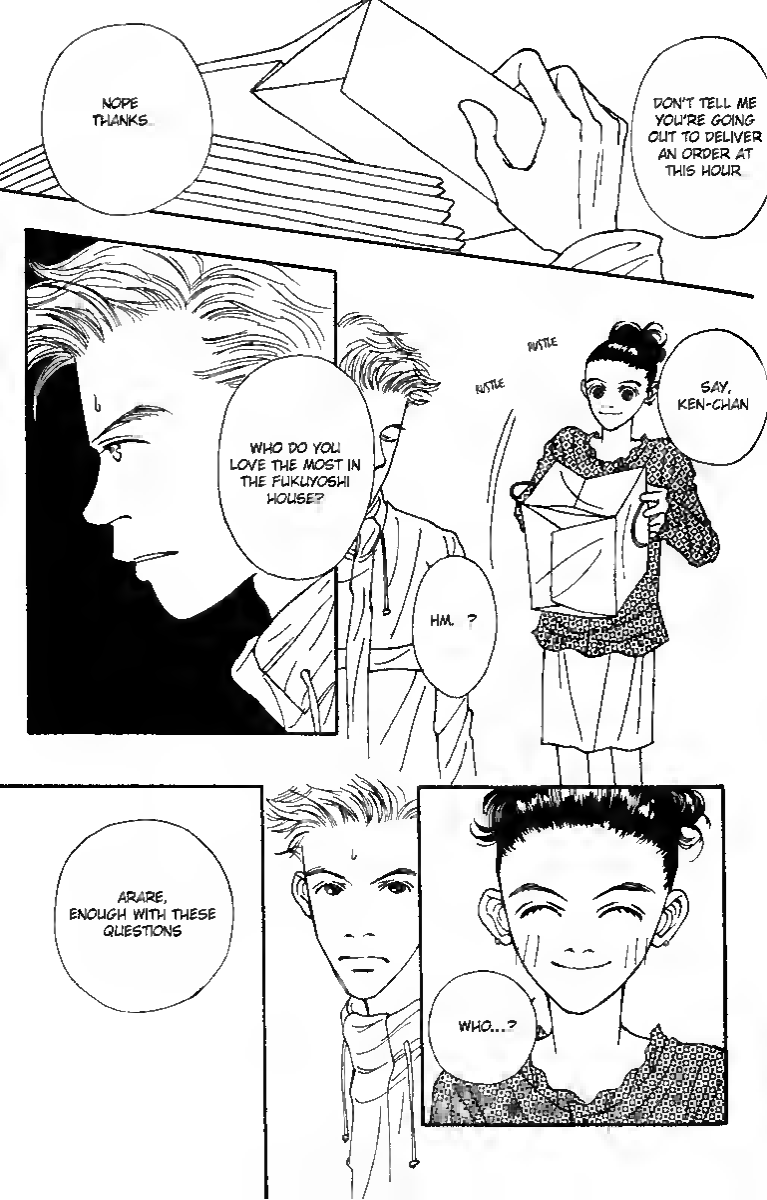
IS THAT ALL? HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT HE MIGHT NOT LOVE ARARE OR SOMETHING?
HE MUST FEEL HE DOESN'T DESERVE THE SHOP'S OWNER'S DAUGHTER
BUT THEN AGAIN, WE CAN'T SAY THAT KENJI-SAN IS INDIFFERENT, EITHER. HE ISN'T SOMEONE WHO WOULD SAY SOMETHING THAT LEAD A WOMAN ON LIKE THAT.
MAYBE THE PROBLEM IS SOMETHING ELSE?
HE MUST HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER ON SOME LEVEL
WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM...?
I BET IT'S ABOUT MARRYING INTO OUR FAMILY.
MAYBE HE HAS SOMETHING ON HIS MIND THAT HE CAN'T RESOLVE YET
I'M A DAUGHTER AND I STILL THINK THAT SUCCEEDING THE FUKUYA IS AN AWFULLY BIG DEAL.

YOU'D HAVE TO ASK HIM THAT YOURSELF
WHAT ABOUT YOURS?
EH?
YOU MEAN HIM MARRYING INTO THIS HOUSE?
WHEN DAD MARRIED YOU AND REALIZED THAT HE HAD TO MARRY INTO OUR FAMILY, WAS HE SHOCKED? FLABBERGASTED?
ARE YOU NUTS? YOUR DAD WASN'T THAT KIND OF LOSER!
EH? SO YOUR WEDDING SAILED BY SMOOTHLY WITHOUT A HITCH?
I GUESS DAD HAD MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT IT.
DAD MUST HAVE REALLY LOVED YOU, MOM
ACTUALLY THERE WAS A PROBLEM. MY PARENTS PAIRED HIM UP WITH MY SISTER BUT THE PLAN FAILED AND HE HAD TO MARRY ME INSTEAD. CAN I TELL THIS TO MY CHILDREN?

WELL...
YOUR DAD'S PARENTS ONLY HAD HIM AND HIS YOUNGER SISTER.
AT FIRST HIS MOTHER WAS AGAINST HIM MARRYING INTO OUR FAMILY.
BUT HE SYMPATHIZED WITH ME, WHO WANTED TO INHERIT THE SHOP.
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, PASSING A FAMILY BUSINESS TO YOUNGSTERS PROBABLY FEELS MORE LIKE A BIG BURDEN TO THEM.
sigh
MIYASAKO
BANG

I WONDER WHY MIYASAKO-SAN DIDN'T SAY YES BACK THEN ABOUT HINA-SAN.
HE WAS VERY KIND TO HER. I THOUGHT WE HAD A MATCH.
REALLY? BUT I WOULDN'T MIND IF IT'S ARARE. YOU GET BOTH THE SHOP AND ARARE. THAT'S AN AWESOME DEAL. I WOULDN'T EVEN THINK TWICE.
EH? ARARE AND MIYASAKO-SAN? NO WAY!
MAYBE WE'LL HEAR SOME NEWS SOON.
THE MADAM IS VERY FOND OF MIYASAKO-SAN
I'D BE RELUCTANT TOO, IF IT WERE ME
MAYBE IT'LL BE LIKE THAT TIME WITH HINA-SAN? MARRYING INTO THE FAMILY.

ARE YOU GOING HOME? THANKS FOR TODAY
PROBABLY BECAUSE MIYASAKO-SAN ISN'T LIKE YOU, KISHI-SAN.
YOU BRAT!
SLIDE
KEN-CHAN!
THE GYOZA.
I SHOULD HAVE FRIED THEM MYSELF
SORRY, CAN YOU HELP ME GET A PAPER BAG?
EH? BUT I THOUGHT I DID AN OKAY JOB.

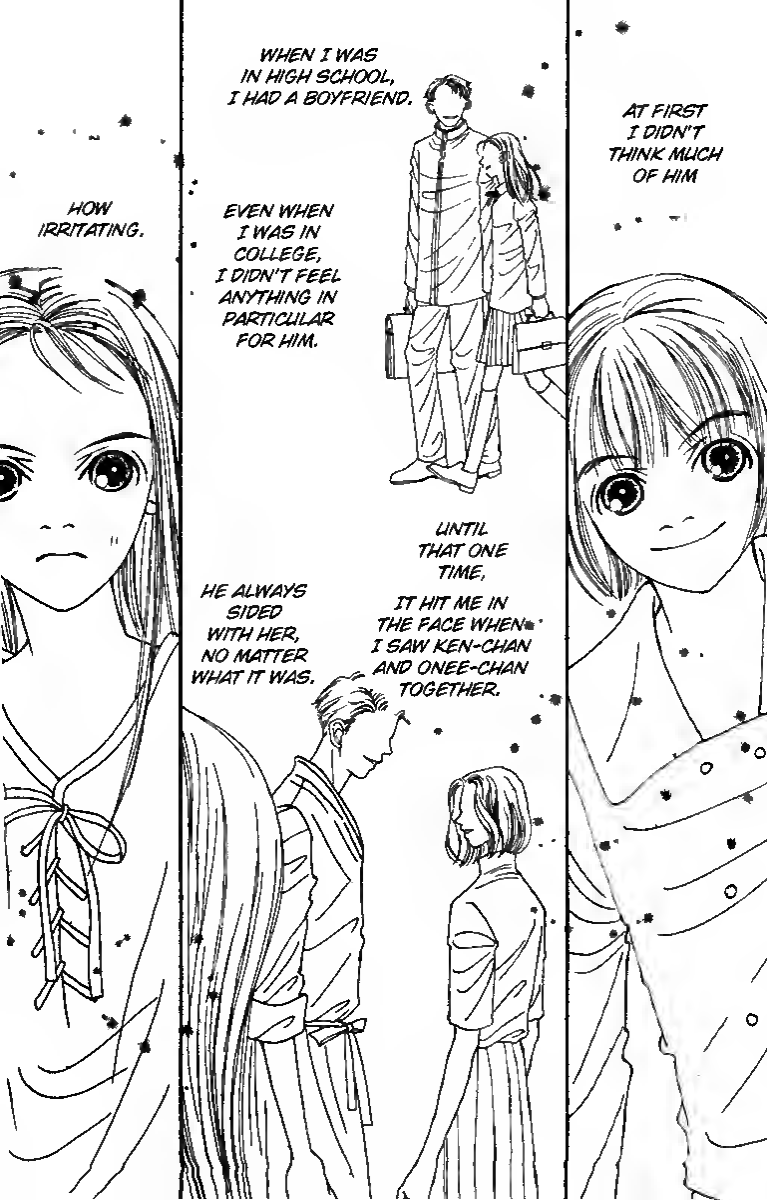

NOPE THANKS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING OUT TO DELIVER AN ORDER AT THIS HOUR.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SAY, KEN-CHAN
WHO DO YOU LOVE THE MOST IN THE FUKUYOSHI HOUSE?
HM. ?
ARARE, ENOUGH WITH THESE QUESTIONS
WHO...?

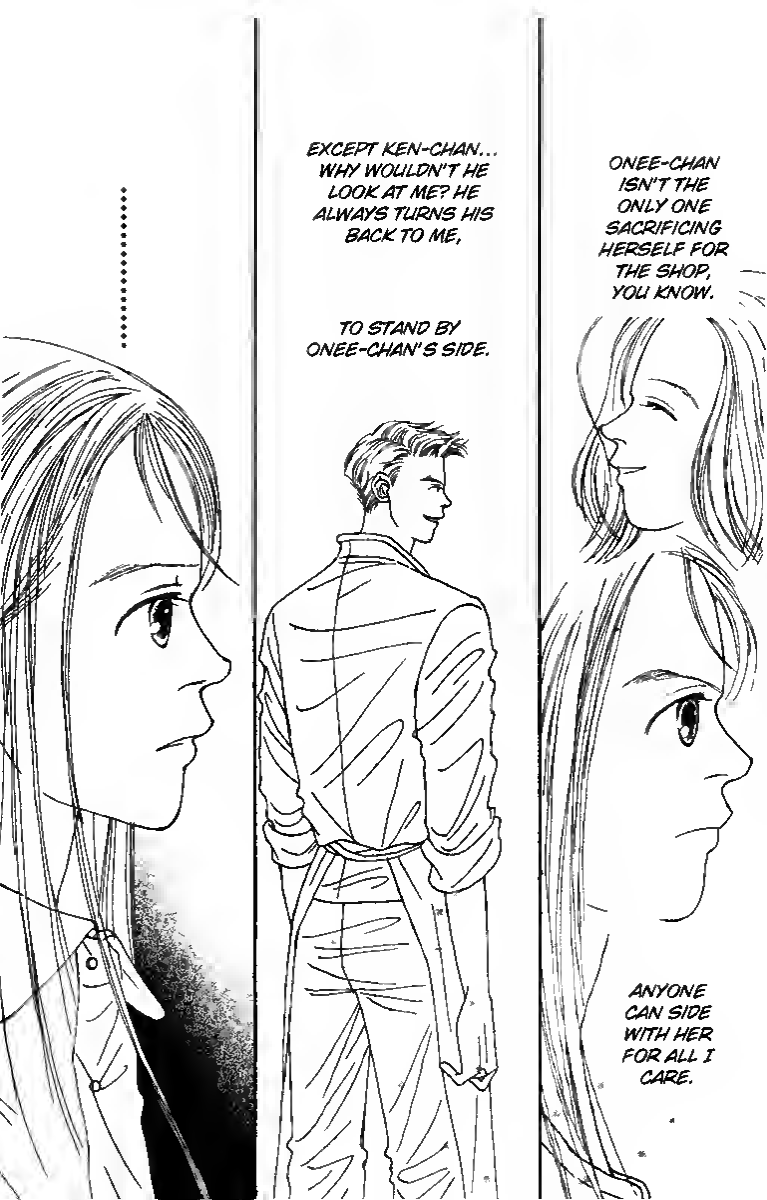
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
I WON'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS UNLESS YOU CAN TELL ME WHY
SEE YA
AGITATED
IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY SO.
YOU KNOW FULLY WELL WHAT I WANT TO HEAR!
Coward?
COWARD!

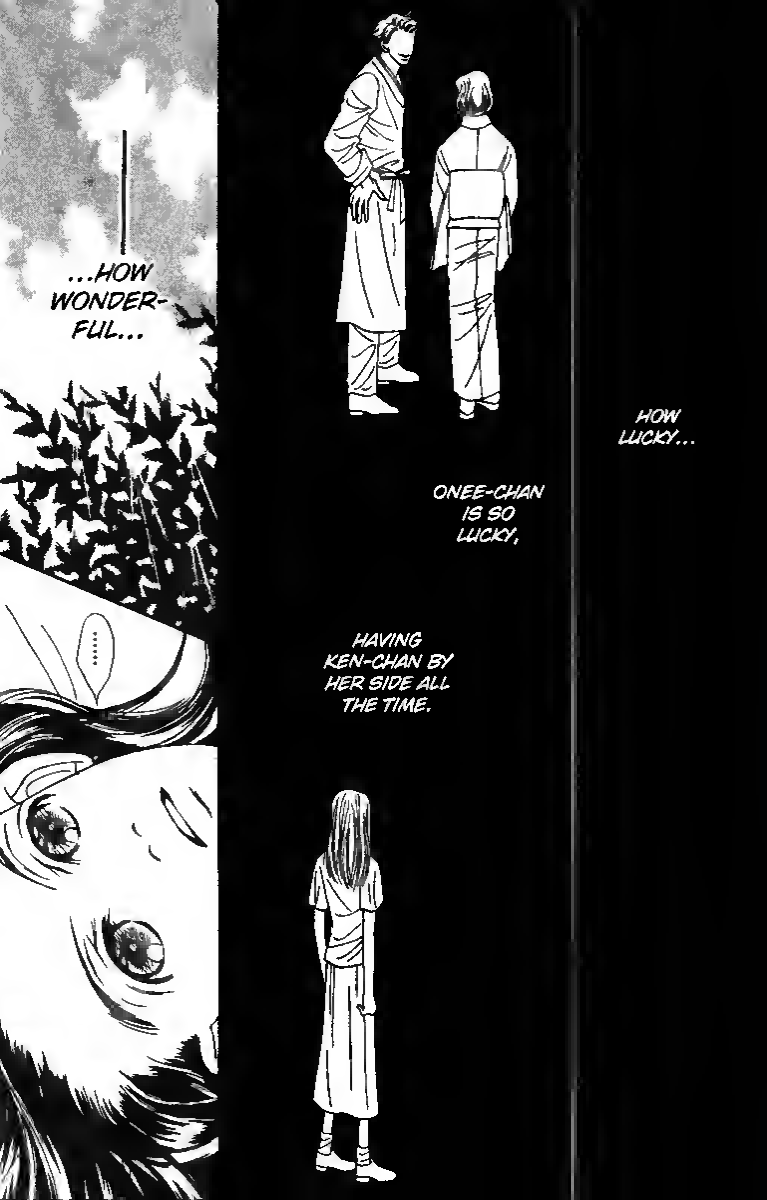
FROZE THE ANSWER-FEARING ARARE ON SPOT.
YOU KNEW THE MEANING OF MY QUESTION BUT CASUALLY BRUSHED IT OFF.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
YOUR RUNNING AWAY IS DESPICABLE!
THEN ASK THE QUESTION STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY. AND I'LL ANSWER YOU STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY.
AH.
THAT UNEXPECTED RETURN CHALLENGE...
THE TABLE HAD BEEN TURNED WITHOUT HER KNOWING IT.

BAM
COWARD!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME, SPIT IT OUT!
.....
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
SELFISH BASTARD! IF YOU THINK I'M ANNOYING, TELL ME DIRECTLY!
YOU'RE AFRAID THAT IF YOU SAY SO, IT'LL BE AWKWARD FOR YOU TO STAY IN THE SHOP, RIGHT?!

WHEN DID I START LIKING KEN-CHAN?

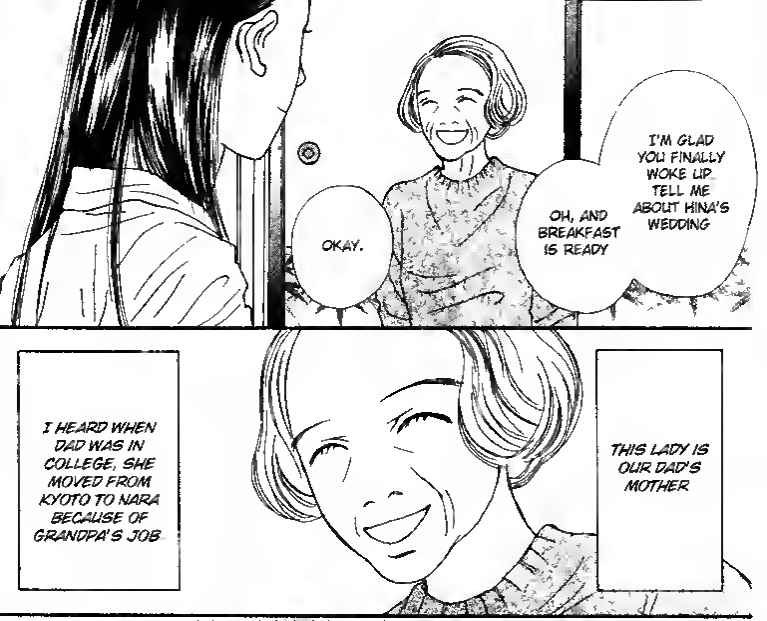

WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, I HAD A BOYFRIEND.
AT FIRST I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF HIM
HOW IRRITATING.
EVEN WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR FOR HIM.
UNTIL THAT ONE TIME,
IT HIT ME IN THE FACE WHEN I SAW KEN-CHAN AND ONEE-CHAN TOGETHER.
HE ALWAYS SIDED WITH HER, NO MATTER WHAT IT WAS.


EXCEPT KEN-CHAN... WHY WOULDN'T HE LOOK AT ME? HE ALWAYS TURNS HIS BACK TO ME,
TO STAND BY ONEE-CHAN'S SIDE.
ONEE-CHAN ISN'T THE ONLY ONE SACRIFICING HERSELF FOR THE SHOP, YOU KNOW.
ANYONE CAN SIDE WITH HER FOR ALL I CARE.

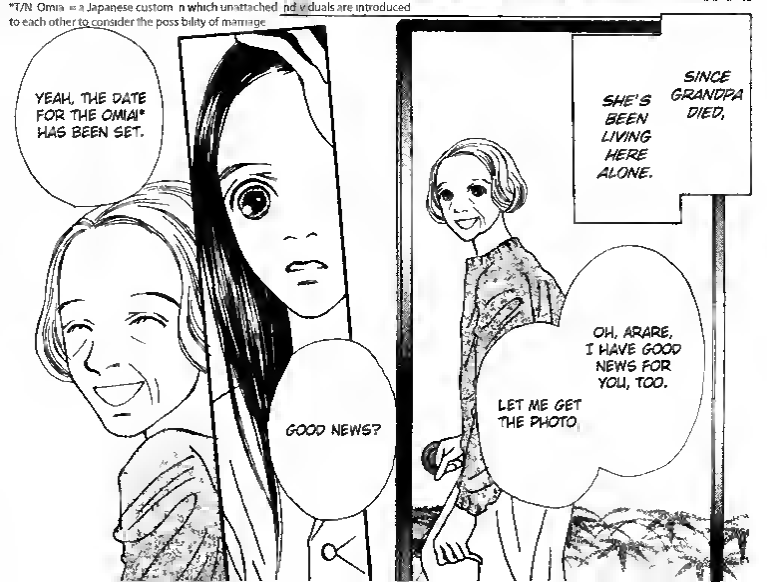

...HOW WONDER-FUL...
HAVING KEN-CHAN BY HER SIDE ALL THE TIME.
ONEE-CHAN IS SO LUCKY.
HOW LUCKY...

.....
Hello
Hello
WHAT?
WHERE AM I...?
.....

GRANDMA.
OH, YOU WOKE UP
SLEEPY HEAD
I FEEL BORED
GRANDMA, THERE'S A DEER IN THE BACKYARD
OH YEAH, I'M IN NARA.
DON'T MIND HIM. HE'LL LEAVE SOON ENOUGH
FLICK
FLICK
FLICK


I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY WOKE UP. TELL ME ABOUT HINA'S WEDDING
OH, AND BREAKFAST IS READY
OKAY.
THIS LADY IS OUR DAD'S MOTHER
I HEARD WHEN DAD WAS IN COLLEGE, SHE MOVED FROM KYOTO TO NARA BECAUSE OF GRANDPA'S JOB

*T/N Omia = a Japanese custom n which unattached nd v duals are introduced to each other to consider the poss bilty of marriage


SINCE GRANDPA DIED,
SHE'S BEEN LIVING HERE ALONE.
OH, ARARE, I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, TOO.
LET ME GET THE PHOTO
YEAH, THE DATE FOR THE OMIAI* HAS BEEN SET.
GOOD NEWS?

.....
What should we have for dinner?
WH...
What
!?

Senbei

are Japanese crackers made from rice, flour or potato. They come in various shapes, sizes, and flavors, usually savory but sometimes sweet. Senbei are often eaten with green tea as a casual snack or offered to visiting house guests as a delightful refreshment.

Fukuyadou Honpo

by YUCHI Yayoi

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http://fukuyan.co.jp

Fu
ku
ya
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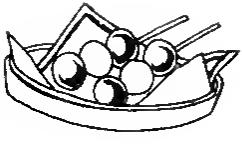
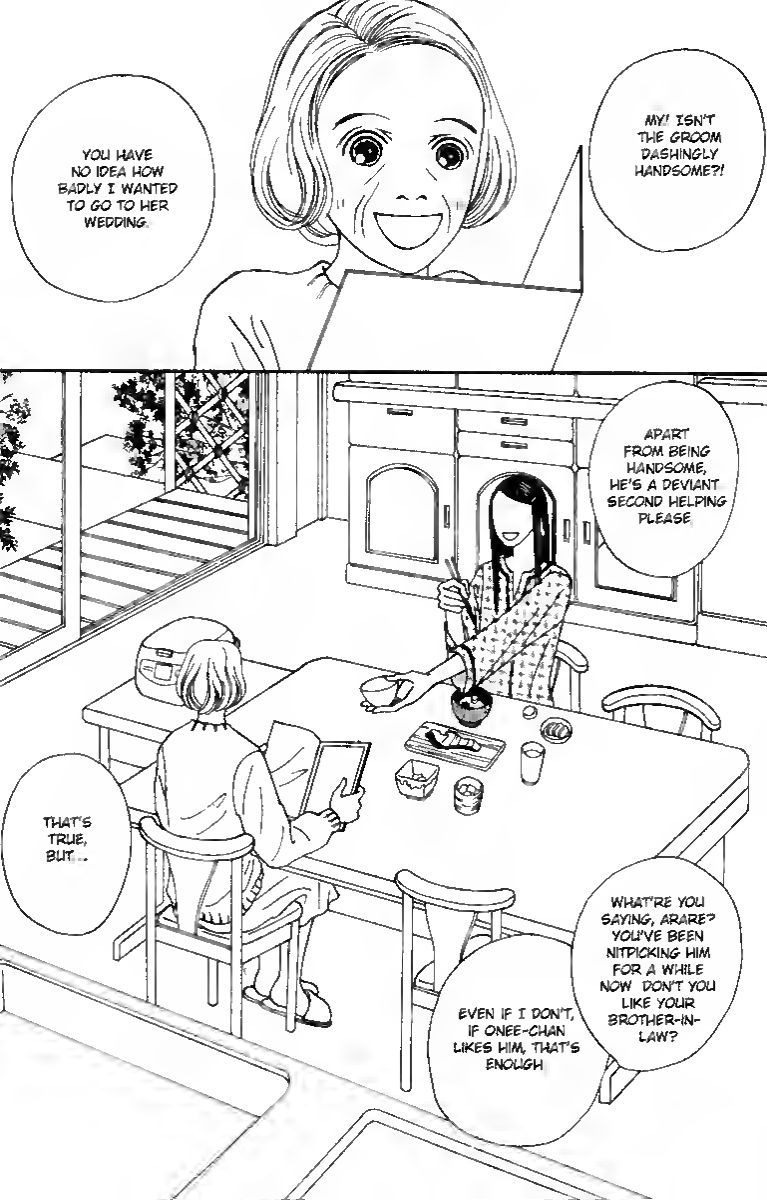
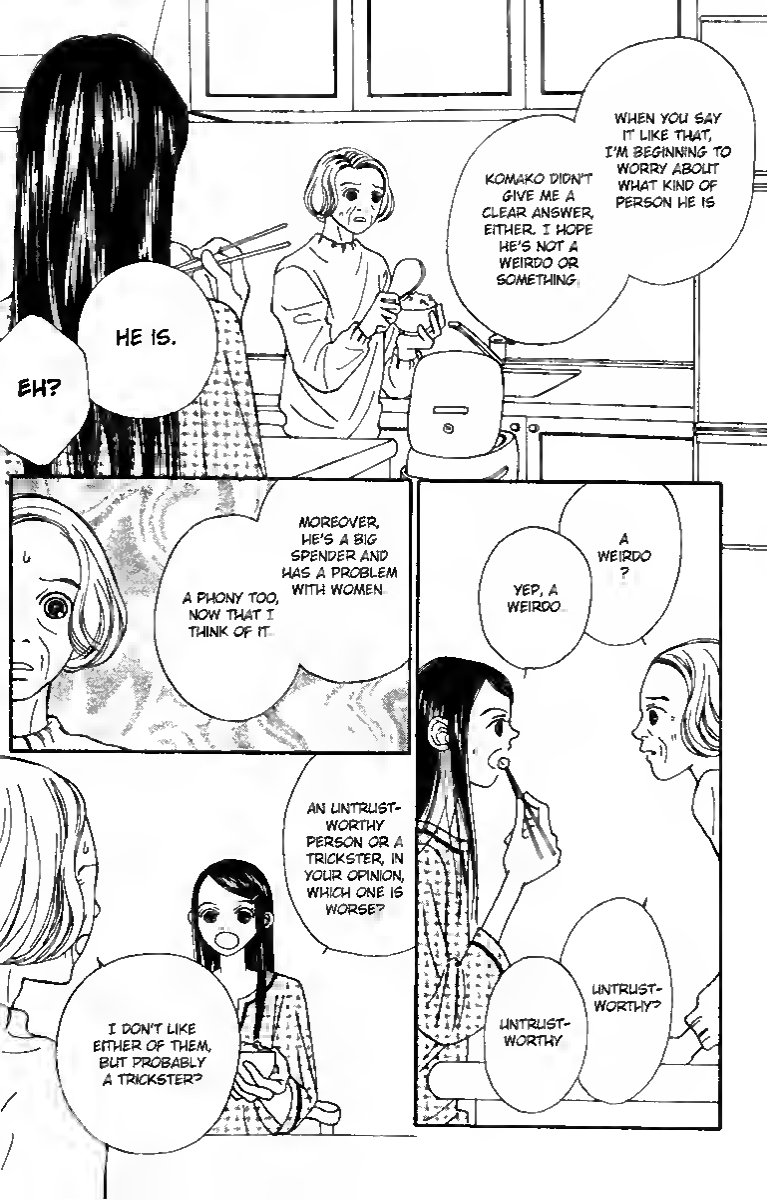
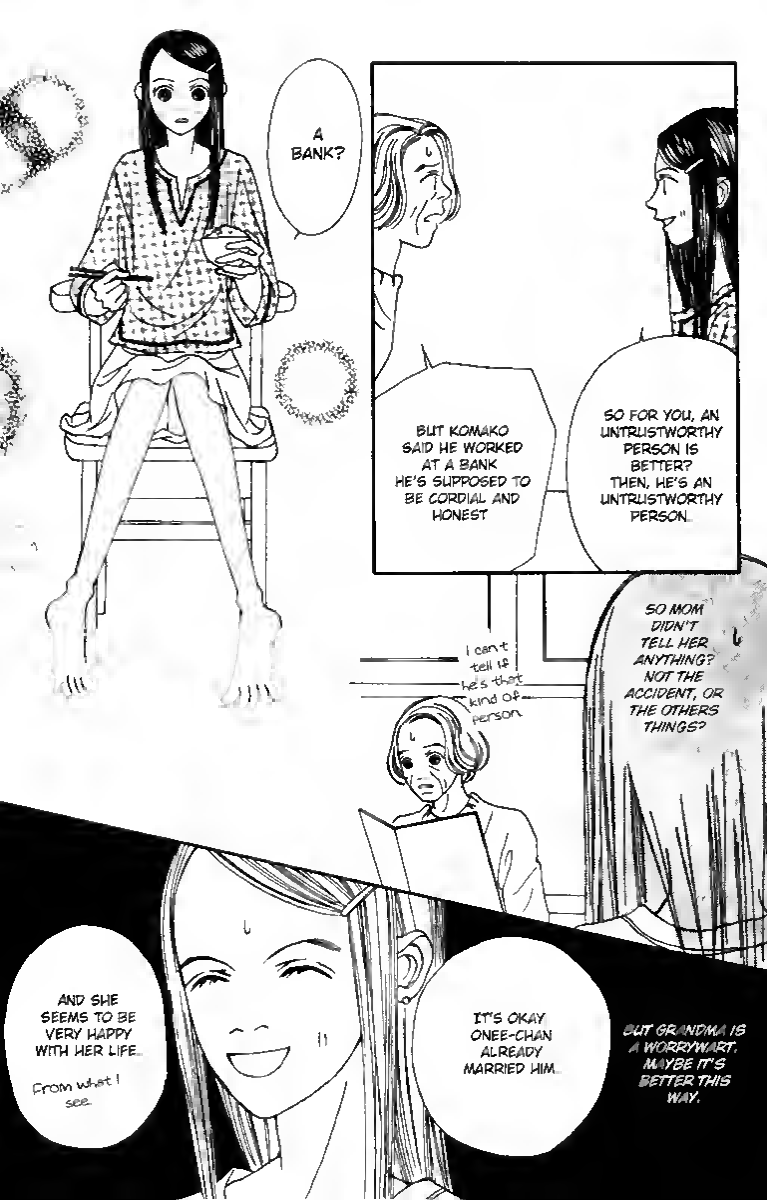
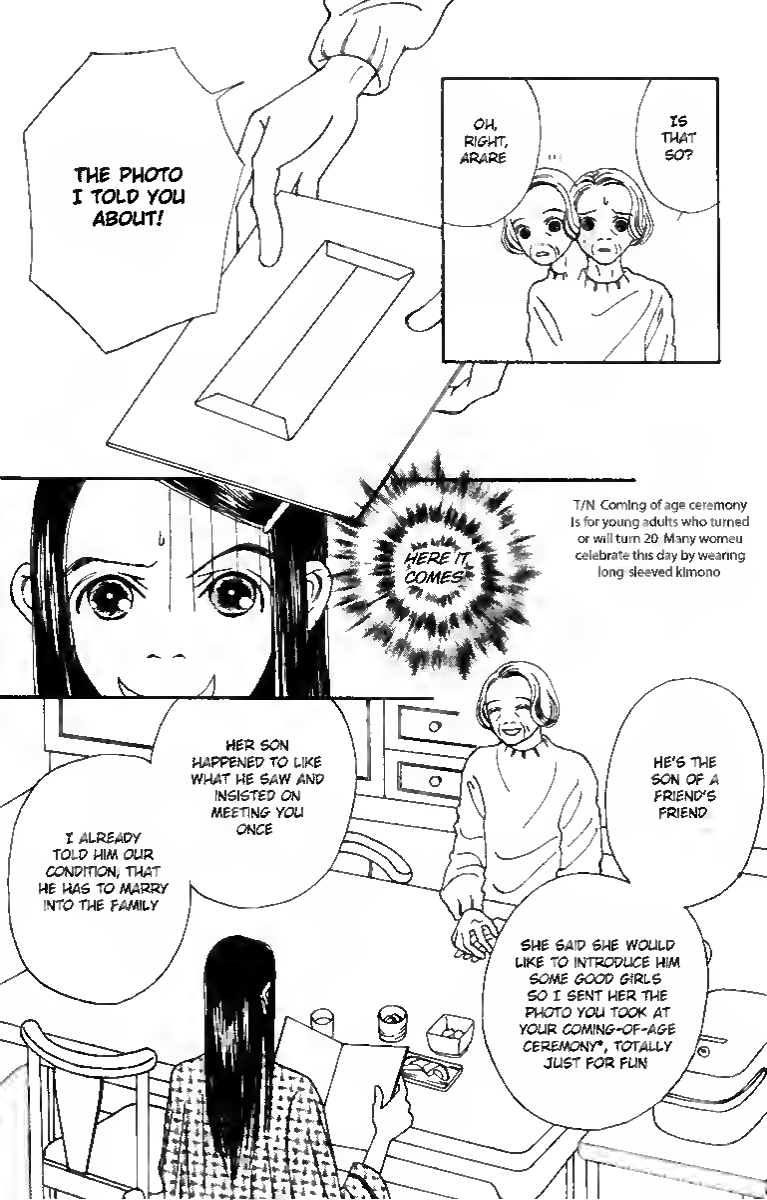
Hon
po
福家堂本舗



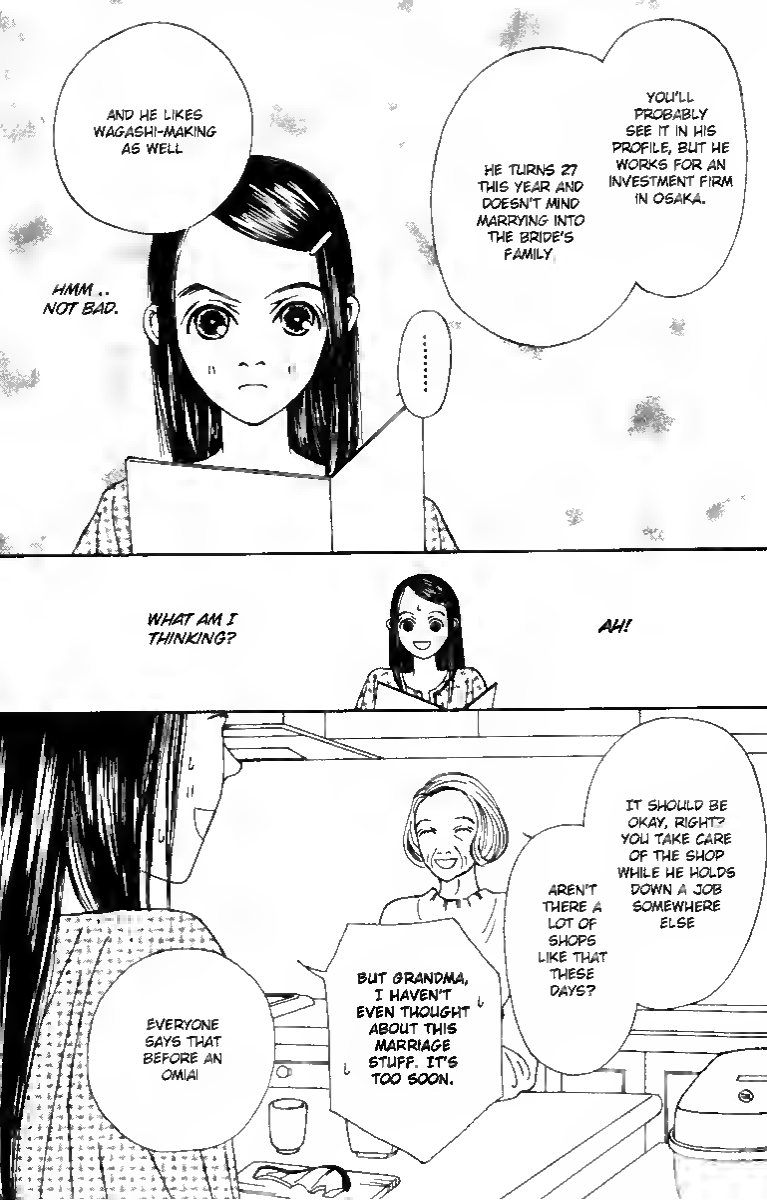

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW BADLY I WANTED TO GO TO HER WEDDING.
MY! ISN'T THE GROOM DASHINGLY HANDSOME?!
APART FROM BEING HANDSOME, HE'S A DEVIANT SECOND HELPING PLEASE
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, ARARE? YOU'VE BEEN NITPICKING HIM FOR A WHILE NOW DON'T YOU LIKE YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW?
EVEN IF I DON'T, IF ONEE-CHAN LIKES HIM, THAT'S ENOUGH

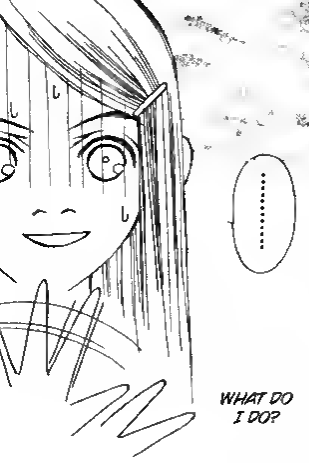

WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, I'M BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS
KOMAKO DIDN'T GIVE ME A CLEAR ANSWER, EITHER. I HOPE HE'S NOT A WEIRDO OR SOMETHING.
HE IS.
EH?
MOREOVER, HE'S A BIG SPENDER AND HAS A PROBLEM WITH WOMEN.
A PHONY TOO, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT.
A WEIRDO?
YEP, A WEIRDO.
UNTRUST-WORTHY?
UNTRUST-WORTHY
AN UNTRUST-WORTHY PERSON OR A TRICKSTER, IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH ONE IS WORSE?
I DON'T LIKE EITHER OF THEM, BUT PROBABLY A TRICKSTER?

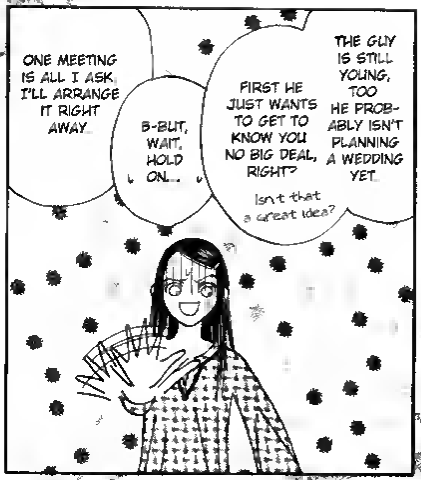

A BANK?
BUT KOMAKO SAID HE WORKED AT A BANK HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE CORDIAL AND HONEST
SO FOR YOU, AN UNTRUSTWORTHY PERSON IS BETTER? THEN, HE'S AN UNTRUSTWORTHY PERSON.
I can't tell if he's that kind of person
SO MOM DIDN'T TELL HER ANYTHING? NOT THE ACCIDENT, OR THE OTHERS THINGS?
BUT GRANDMA IS A WORRYWART. MAYBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.
IT'S OKAY. ONEE-CHAN ALREADY MARRIED HIM.
AND SHE SEEMS TO BE VERY HAPPY WITH HER LIFE.
From what I see.


THE PHOTO I TOLD YOU ABOUT!
OH, RIGHT, ARARE
IS THAT SO?
HERE IT COMES!
HE'S THE SON OF A FRIEND'S FRIEND
SHE SAID SHE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE HIM SOME GOOD GIRLS SO I SENT HER THE PHOTO YOU TOOK AT YOUR COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY*, TOTALLY JUST FOR FUN
HER SON HAPPENED TO LIKE WHAT HE SAW AND INSISTED ON MEETING YOU ONCE
I ALREADY TOLD HIM OUR CONDITION, THAT HE HAS TO MARRY INTO THE FAMILY

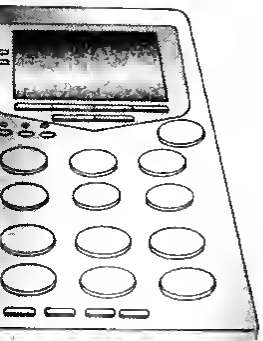
T/N Coming of age ceremony Is for young adults who turned or will turn 20 Many women celebrate this day by wearing long sleeved kimono

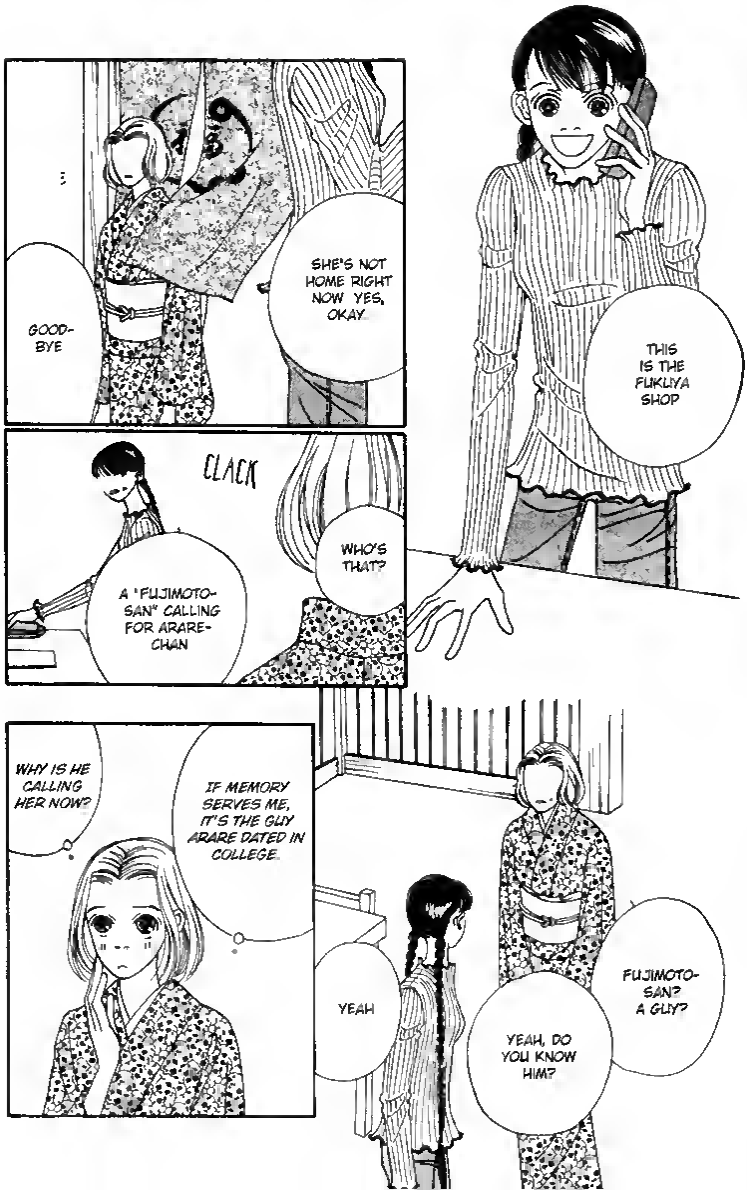

AND HE LIKES WAGASHI-MAKING AS WELL
HMM .. NOT BAD.
HE TURNS 27 THIS YEAR AND DOESN'T MIND MARRYING INTO THE BRIDE'S FAMILY
YOU'LL PROBABLY SEE IT IN HIS PROFILE, BUT HE WORKS FOR AN INVESTMENT FIRM IN OSAKA.
.....
WHAT AM I THINKING?
AH!
EVERYONE SAYS THAT BEFORE AN OMIAI
BUT GRANDMA, I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE STUFF. IT'S TOO SOON.
AREN'T THERE A LOT OF SHOPS LIKE THAT THESE DAYS?
IT SHOULD BE OKAY, RIGHT? YOU TAKE CARE OF THE SHOP WHILE HE HOLDS DOWN A JOB SOMEWHERE ELSE

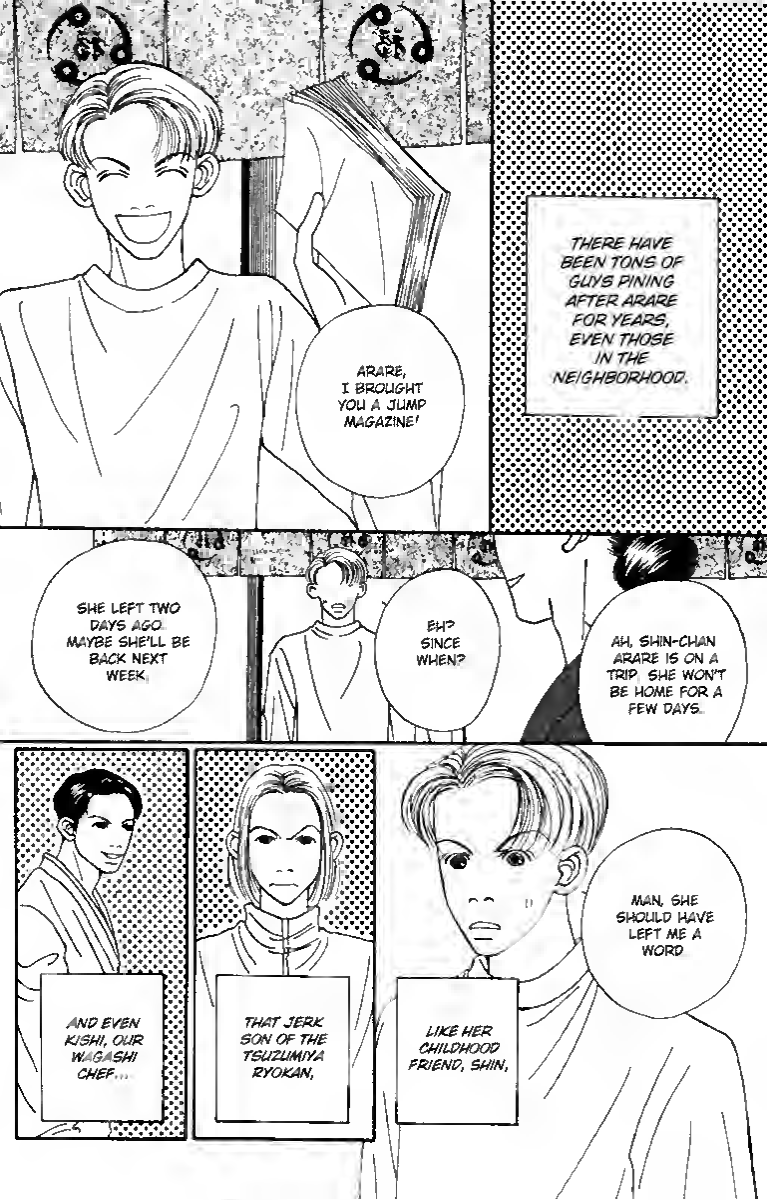



ONE MEETING IS ALL I ASK. I'LL ARRANGE IT RIGHT AWAY.
B-BUT, WAIT, HOLD ON...
FIRST HE JUST WANTS TO GET TO KNOW YOU NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT?
Isn't that a great idea?
THE GUY IS STILL YOUNG, TOO HE PROBABLY ISN'T PLANNING A WEDDING YET.

I'M NOT SAYING THIS BECAUSE SHE'S MY SISTER, BUT ARARE IS REALLY VERY POPULAR.




GOOD-BYE
SHE'S NOT HOME RIGHT NOW YES, OKAY
THIS IS THE FUKUYA SHOP
CLACK
WHO'S THAT?
A "FUJIMOTO-SAN" CALLING FOR ARARE-CHAN
WHY IS HE CALLING HER NOW?
IF MEMORY SERVES ME, IT'S THE GUY ARARE DATED IN COLLEGE.
YEAH
YEAH, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
FUJIMOTO-SAN? A GUY?


ARARE, I BROUGHT YOU A JUMP MAGAZINE!
THERE HAVE BEEN TONS OF GUYS PINING AFTER ARARE FOR YEARS, EVEN THOSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
SHE LEFT TWO DAYS AGO. MAYBE SHE'LL BE BACK NEXT WEEK.
EH? SINCE WHEN?
AH, SHIN-CHAN ARARE IS ON A TRIP. SHE WON'T BE HOME FOR A FEW DAYS.
AND EVEN KISHI, OUR WAGASHI CHEF...
THAT JERK SON OF THE TSUZUMIYA RYOKAN,
LIKE HER CHILDHOOD FRIEND, SHIN,
MAN, SHE SHOULD HAVE LEFT ME A WORD

THEY ALL FIND ARARE ATTRACTIVE.
ARARE, LET'S GO TO CALLIGRAPHY CLASS TOGETHER.
ARARE...
SORRY. ARARE WILL BE ABSENT FOR THE WHOLE WEEK.
WHAT? NO FUN!
...
EVEN THOSE OUTSIDE HER AGE RANGE
Don't tell me you want to be my brother-in-law
That nee-san just now isn't interesting at all
Yeah I agree.
You like Nanko don't you?
Because she has pretty voice.
KIDS THESE DAYS...

LOOK AT THIS.
I JUST FOUND IT.
WHAT?
THE PHOTO OF ARARE AT HER COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY
HANA.
HANA
OH, I KNOW. SHE LOOKS STUNNING.
THE PHOTOG-RAPHER WAS VERY SKILLED TOO
IF YOU SEND THIS PHOTO AROUND IN AN OMIAI PROFILE, MANY PEOPLE WILL WANT TO MEET HER
BUT IT'D BE LIKE WE'RE CONNING THEM.
WE DEFINITELY SHOULD!

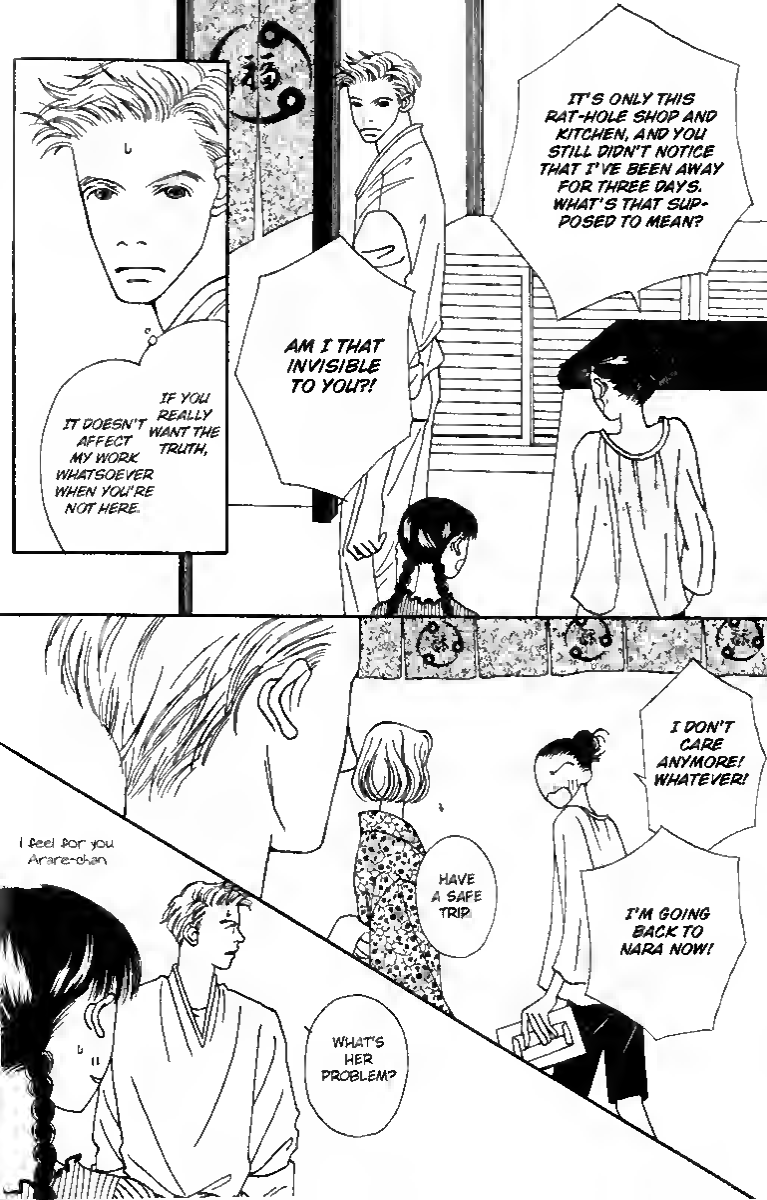
BANG
ARARE-CHAN...?!
Huff Huff
Get me some water
IS MOM HOME?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN NARA?
Why are you here?
I SNUCK OUT WHILE GRANDMA WENT TO THE HOSPITAL FOR A CHECK-UP. I'VE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH MOM.
.....

WHY THE HECK DID YOU AGREE TO IT?
YOU SHOULD HAVE RE-FUSED!
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT WITHOUT HURTING HER FEELINGS. PLEASE REFUSE IT FOR ME, MOM.
IF I DO IT, SHE'LL THINK I'M A TYRANT MOTHER. YOU HAVE TO TELL HER YOURSELF!
HOW?
JUST SAY YOU'RE NOT THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE YET OR SOMETHING. THERE ARE TONS OF EXCUSES.
I DID! BUT SHE INSISTED THAT I MEET HIM ONCE.

BUT IT'S NOT ENTIRELY A LIE.
.....
WHAT IF SHE WANTS TO MEET HIM?
HOW CAN I LIE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
THEN TELL HER YOU ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE
ANYWAY, TURN HER DOWN YOURSELF. I'M NOT GETTING INVOLVED
THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER.
NOT FAIR.
WHAT DO I DO?
ARARE-CHAN, WILL YOU STAY FOR DINNER?
NAH.

I NEED TO COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE
sigh
I SENT YOUR PHOTO JUST FOR FUN
FOR FUN? AND YOU EVEN FOUND SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T MIND MARRYING INTO THE BRIDE'S FAMILY? GEEZ, GRANDMA
I GUESS SHE MUST BE WORRYING ABOUT OUR SHOP TOO
.....
hmph!
YOU SKIPPED WORK AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU, ARARE? GO MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL

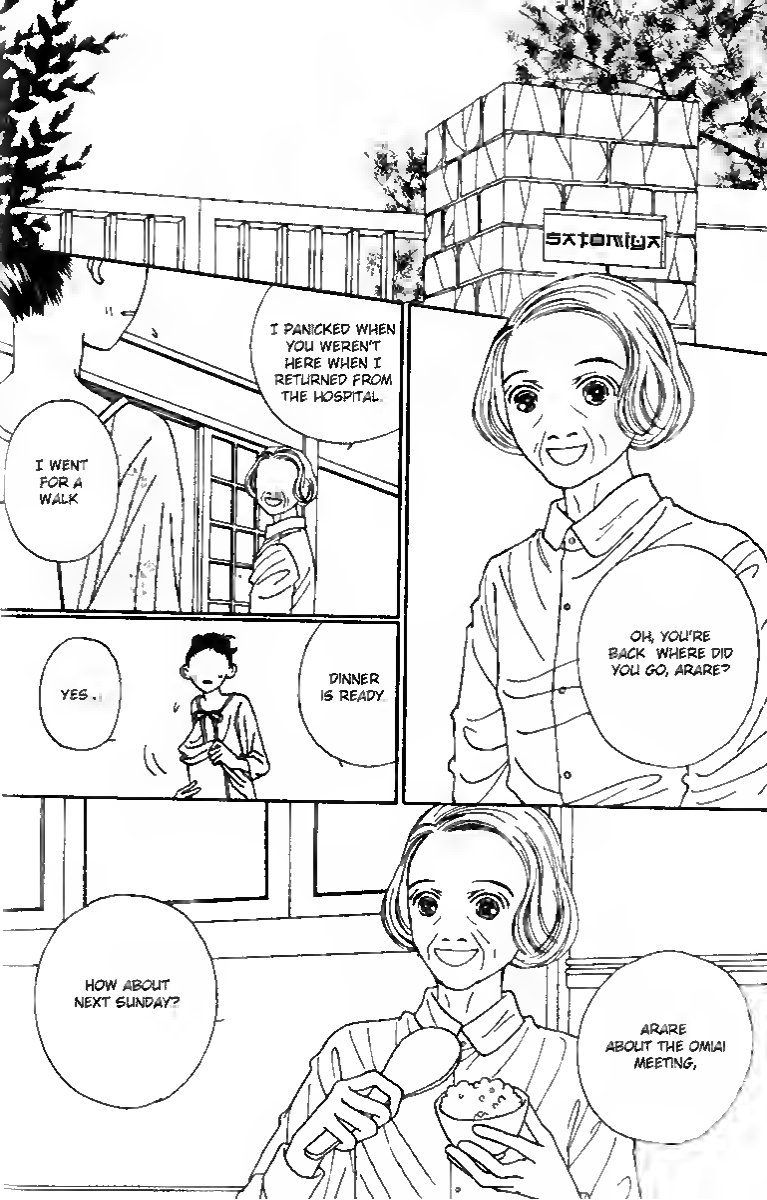
"I SEE"? IS THAT ALL? I'VE BEEN ABSENT FOR THREE DAYS, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.
IT'S EVEN WRITTEN ON THE BOARD. DON'T YOU HAVE EYES?
SKIPPED WORK, WHAT? I'M ON VACATION!
VACATION? I SEE.
Miss this is the list for todays deliveries.
THANKS.
I DIDN'T NOTICE.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
ARARE-CHAN, KENJI-SAN HAS BEEN EXTREMELY BUSY IN THESE PAST FEW DAYS
YOU DIDN'T... NOTICE...


IT'S ONLY THIS RAT-HOLE SHOP AND KITCHEN, AND YOU STILL DIDN'T NOTICE THAT I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR THREE DAYS. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
AM I THAT INVISIBLE TO YOU?!
IF YOU REALLY WANT THE TRUTH, IT DOESN'T AFFECT MY WORK WHATSOEVER WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE.
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! WHATEVER!
I'M GOING BACK TO NARA NOW!
HAVE A SAFE TRIP
I feel for you Arare-chan
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?

HAS ARARE REALLY BEEN ON A VACATION?
YES YOU HONESTLY DIDN'T NOTICE, KEN-CHAN?
NOPE CAN'T SAY I DID...

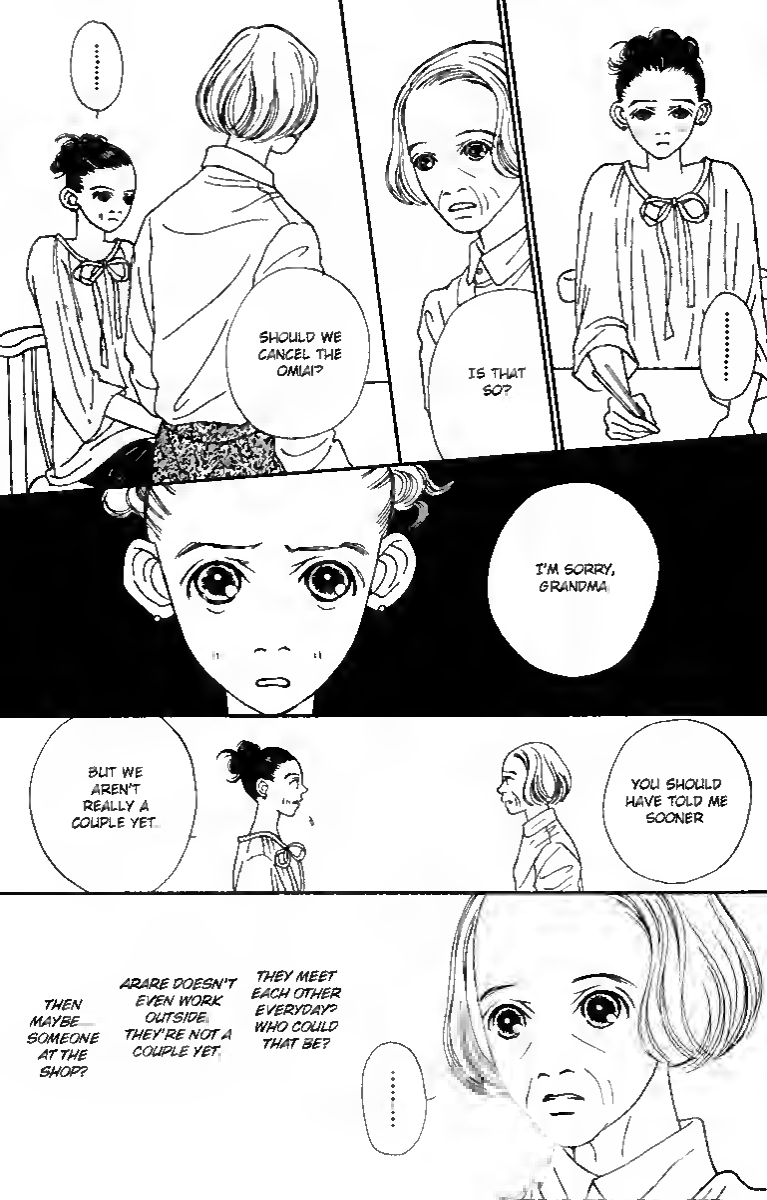
MOM GAVE HER A TEN-DAY VACATION,
SO SHE WENT TO GRANDMA'S PLACE IN NARA THREE DAYS AGO
POOR ARARE-CHAN.
IT'S BECAUSE GRANDMA..
THEN WHY DID SHE RETURN ALL OF A SUDDEN?
EH..?
.....
...IS ARRANGING FOR HER TO ATTEND AN OMIAI

I GUESS, FROM NOW ON THE PEOPLE AROUND HER WILL ONLY HAVE MORE OPINIONS ABOUT HER MARRIAGE. DURING THAT TIME, MAYBE ARARE WILL FIND SOMEONE SHE DOESN'T MIND SPENDING HER LIFE WITH.
MOREOVER, THE FUTURE OF OUR SHOP DEPENDS ON HER.
BUT IT'S UNDENIABLE THAT SHE'S AT THE RIGHT AGE
ARARE ISN'T THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE YET.
.....
.....
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE AT THE AGE THAT SHOULD THINK ABOUT SETTLING DOWN TOO, AREN'T YOU, KEN-CHAN?
.....
ONEE-CHAN IS TRYING TO HELP ARARE-CHAN, TOO?

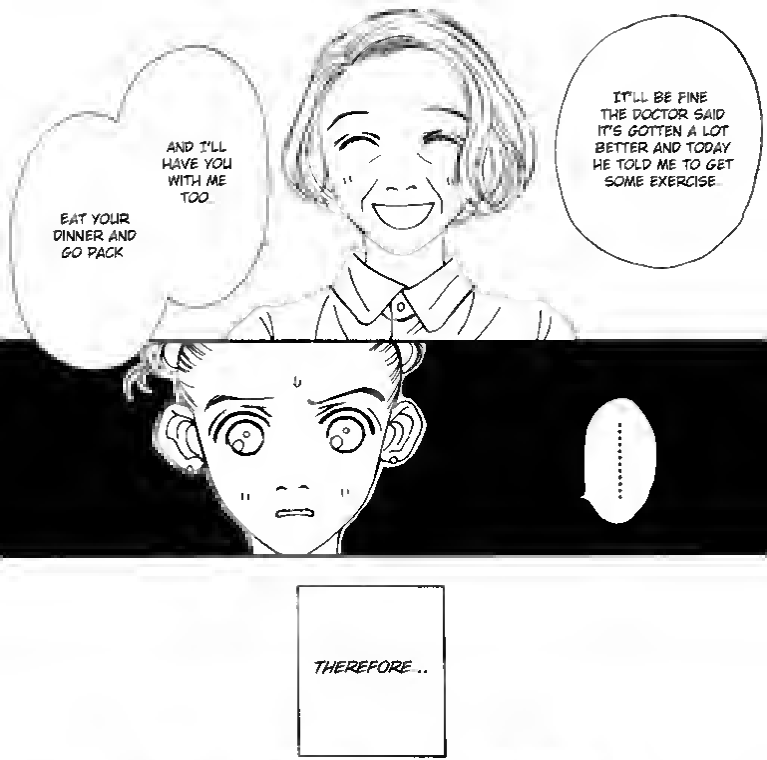

I PANICKED WHEN YOU WEREN'T HERE WHEN I RETURNED FROM THE HOSPITAL.
I WENT FOR A WALK
OH, YOU'RE BACK. WHERE DID YOU GO, ARARE?
DINNER IS READY
YES..
HOW ABOUT NEXT SUNDAY?
ARARE ABOUT THE OMIAI MEETING,

ARARE, ARE YOU LISTENING?
HOW ABOUT THE NARA HOTEL? THEIR LANDSCAPE IS ESPECIALLY LOVELY THIS SEASON.
HE WILL COME ALL THE WAY TO NARA FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
.....
MY GOODNESS, ARARE! YOU SPILLED YOUR FOOD EVERYWHERE.
THIS IS HIGHLY IMPROPER.
DON'T DO THIS DURING THE OMIAI,
THE OTHER PARTY WON'T LIKE IT.

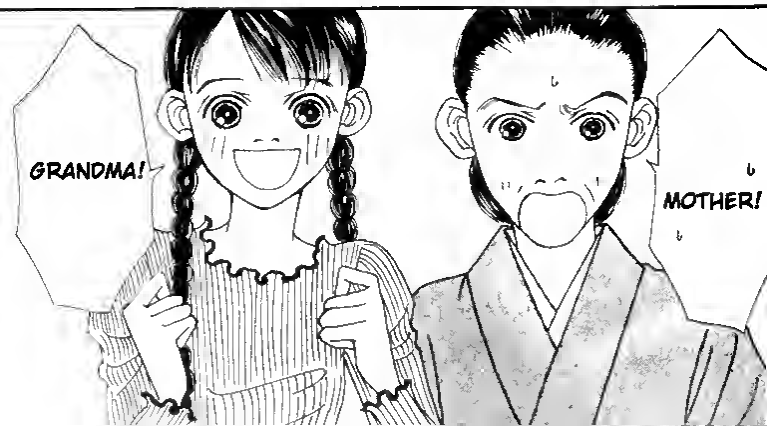
I DON'T CARE IF ANYONE DISLIKES ME ANYMORE
THE PERSON I LIKE THE MOST HATES ME NOW
I DON'T CARE
WE SEE EACH OTHER EVERYDAY, BUT HE DIDN'T NOTICE THAT I WAS MISSING FOR THREE DAYS
FOR HIM, MY EXISTENCE PROBABLY DOESN'T MEAN A THING
ARARE, YOU ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?


.....
SHOULD WE CANCEL THE OMIAI?
IS THAT SO?
.....
I'M SORRY, GRANDMA.
BUT WE AREN'T REALLY A COUPLE YET.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER
THEN MAYBE... SOMEONE AT THE SHOP?
ARARE DOESN'T EVEN WORK OUTSIDE. THEY'RE NOT A COUPLE YET.
THEY MEET EACH OTHER EVERYDAY? WHO COULD THAT BE?
.....

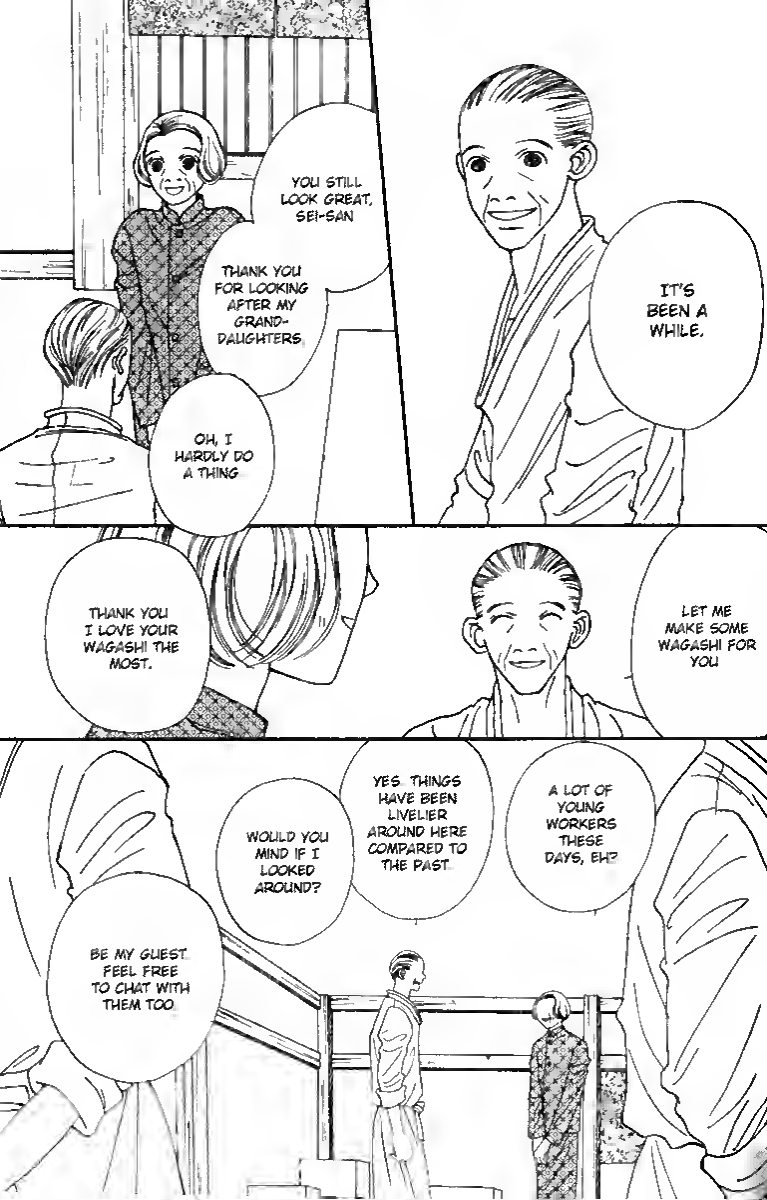
AH
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
CLAP
EH?!!
ARARE, I'M GOING TO KYOTO WITH YOU.
BUT YOUR KNEE!
YOU DON'T MIND SPENDING THE REST OF YOUR VACATION AT HOME, RIGHT?
I FEEL UNSETTLED ABOUT HINA'S SITUATION AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO, ARARE ALLOW ME TO IMPOSE ON YOU FOR A FEW DAYS.

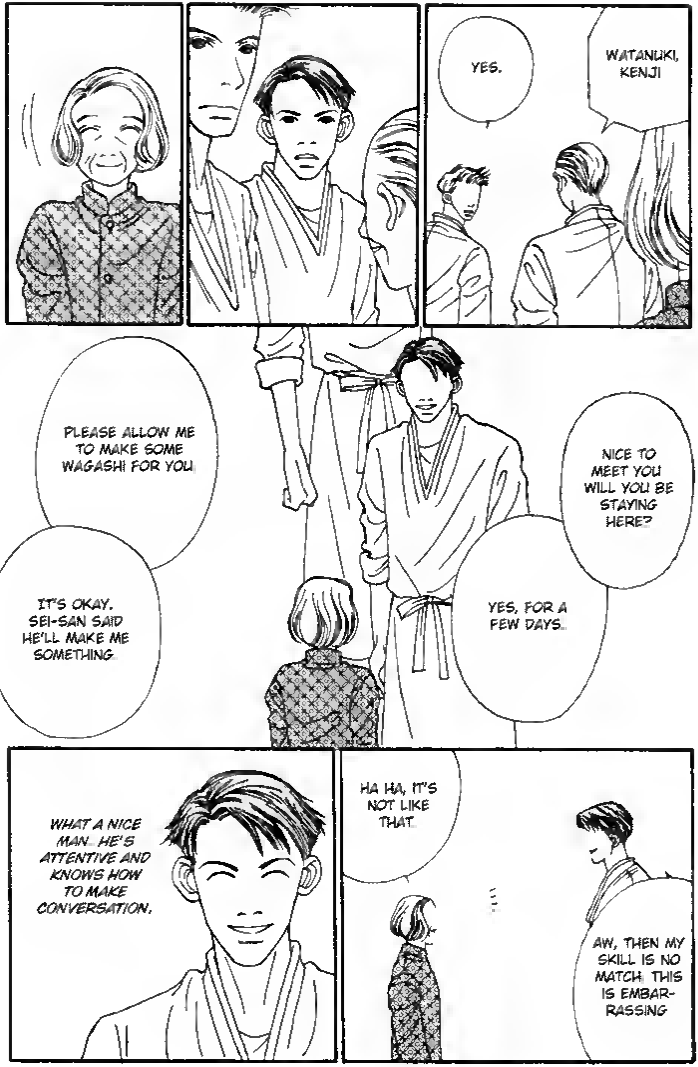

IT'LL BE FINE THE DOCTOR SAID IT'S GOTTEN A LOT BETTER AND TODAY HE TOLD ME TO GET SOME EXERCISE.
AND I'LL HAVE YOU WITH ME TOO.
EAT YOUR DINNER AND GO BACK
.....

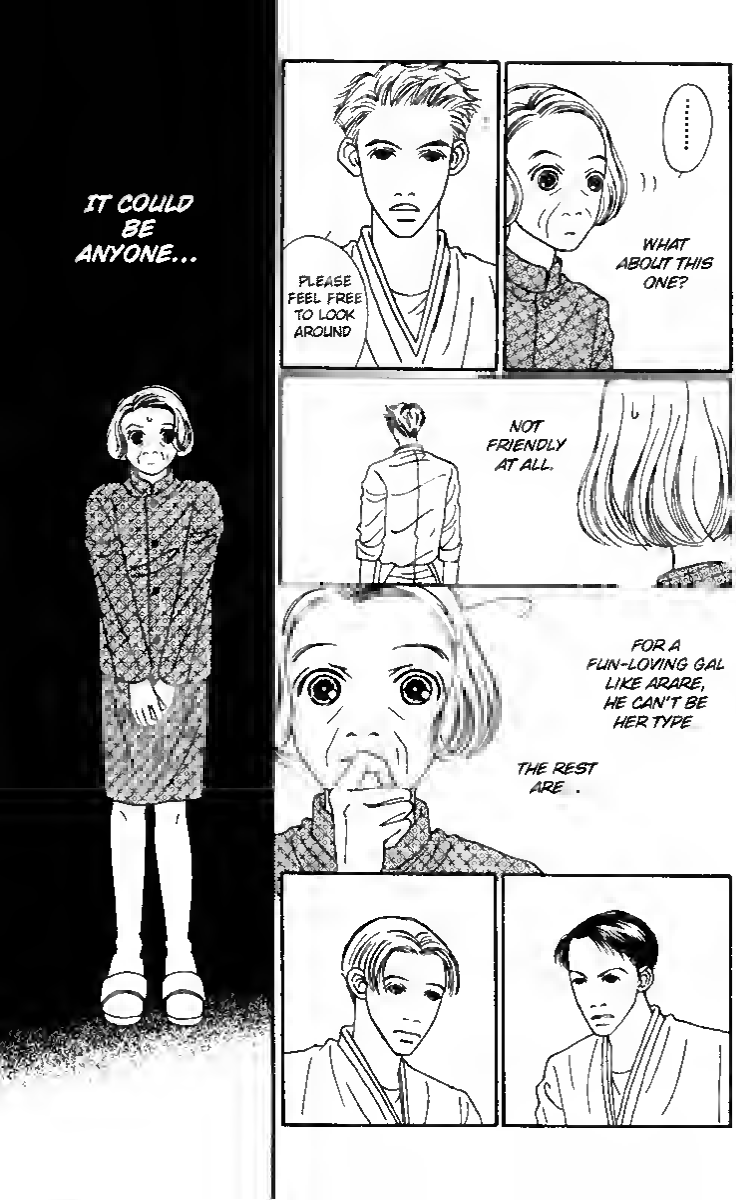
THEREFORE ..


GRANDMA!
MOTHER!

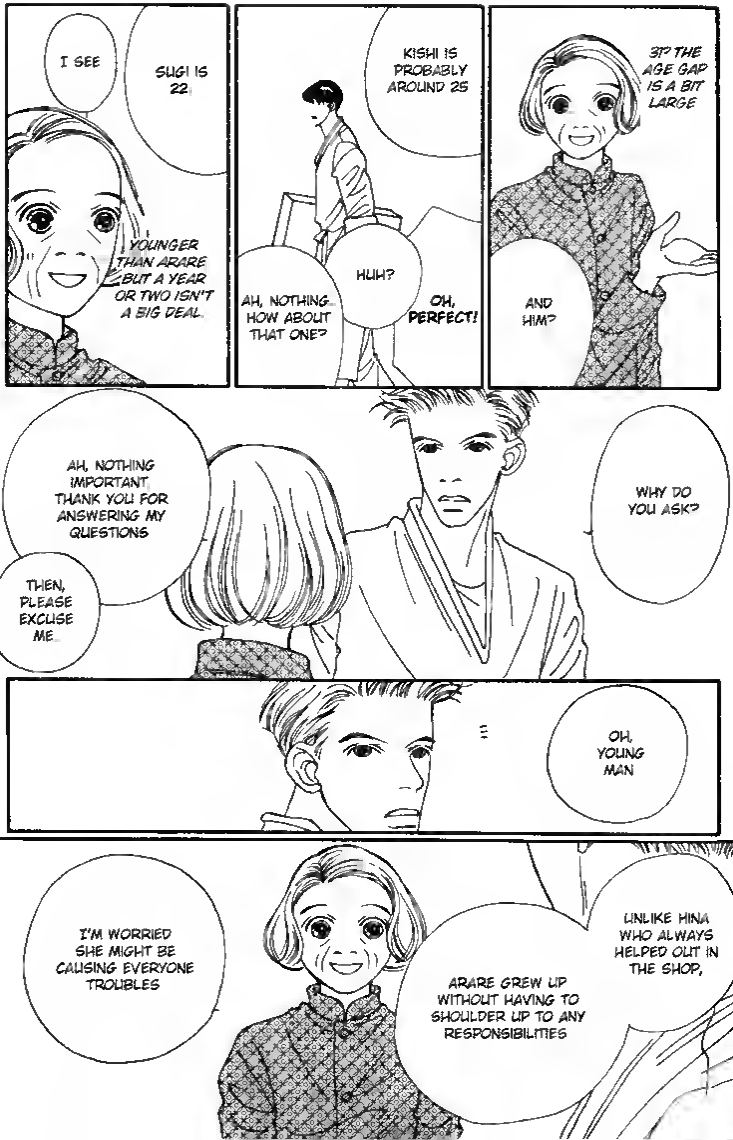
AM I A BOTHER?
NO, NOT AT ALL!
PLEASE LET ME STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS, KOMAKO.
YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE, BUT WHY SO SUDDENLY...
IF IT WERE HINA, NOT ONLY WOULD SHE HAVE CALLED TO WARN ME, BUT SHE'D HAVE EVEN HELD IT OFF FOR A DAY SO I COULD GET EVERYTHING
SERIOUSLY, ARARE, YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED ME I HAVEN'T PREPARED ANYTHING
SHE'S GONE HOME FOR TODAY
MY, HANA, YOU'VE BECOME TALLER AGAIN WHERE'S HINA?
YES, WHY?
SO YOU'VE REFUSED THE OMIAI?
CAN I GO INTO THE KITCHEN?
KOMAKO, I'D LIKE TO SAY HELLO TO SEI-S.IN.

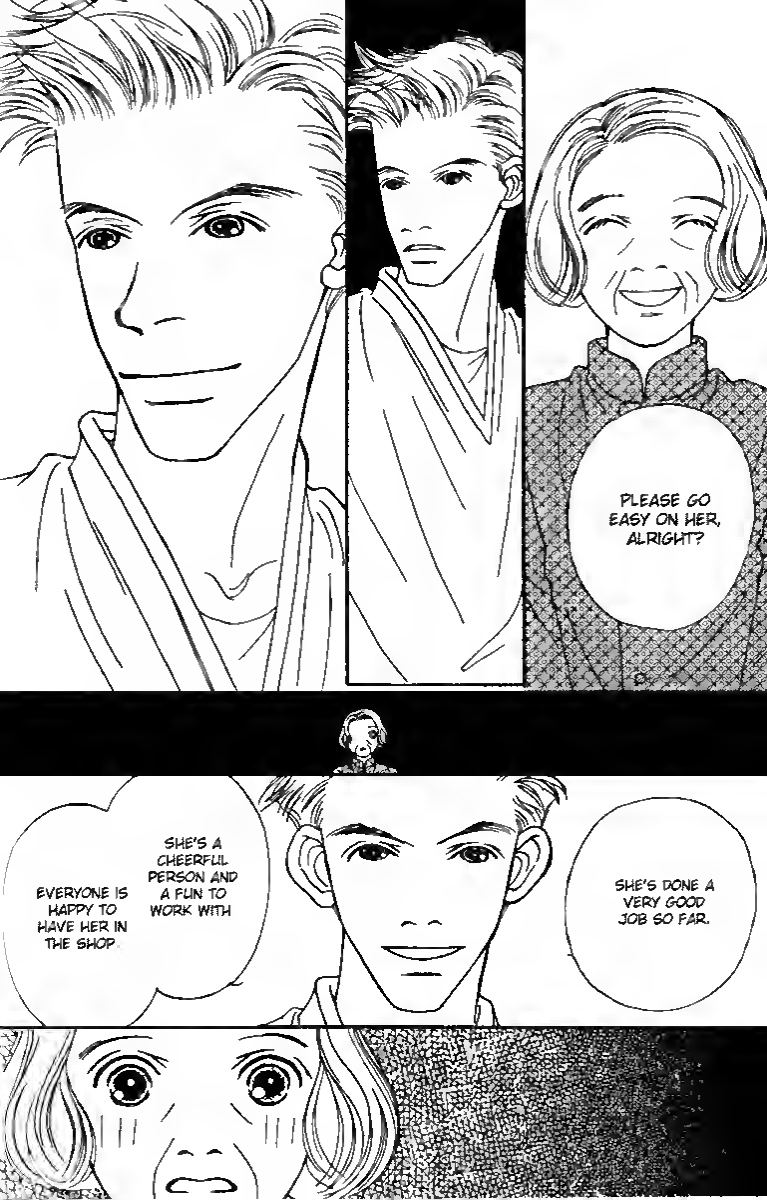

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
YOU STILL LOOK GREAT, SEI-SAN
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MY GRAND-DAUGHTERS.
OH, I HARDLY DO A THING.
LET ME MAKE SOME WAGASHI FOR YOU.
THANK YOU I LOVE YOUR WAGASHI THE MOST.
A LOT OF YOUNG WORKERS THESE DAYS, EH?
YES. THINGS HAVE BEEN LIVELIER AROUND HERE COMPARED TO THE PAST.
WOULD YOU MIND IF I LOOKED AROUND?
BE MY GUEST. FEEL FREE TO CHAT WITH THEM TOO.

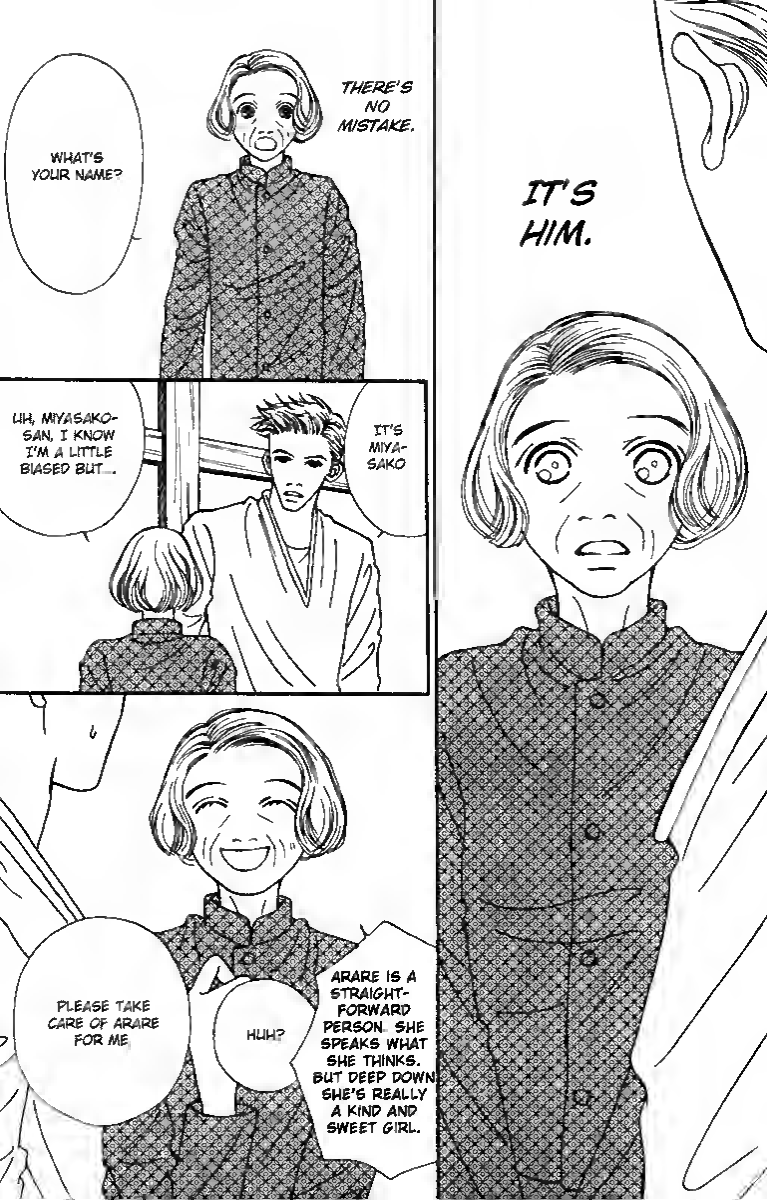

YES.
WATANUKI, KENJI
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO MAKE SOME WAGASHI FOR YOU.
IT'S OKAY. SEI-SAN SAID HE'LL MAKE ME SOMETHING.
NICE TO MEET YOU. WILL YOU BE STAYING HERE?
YES, FOR A FEW DAYS.
WHAT A NICE MAN. HE'S ATTENTIVE AND KNOWS HOW TO MAKE CONVERSATION.
HA HA, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
AW, THEN MY SKILL IS NO MATCH. THIS IS EMBARRASSING

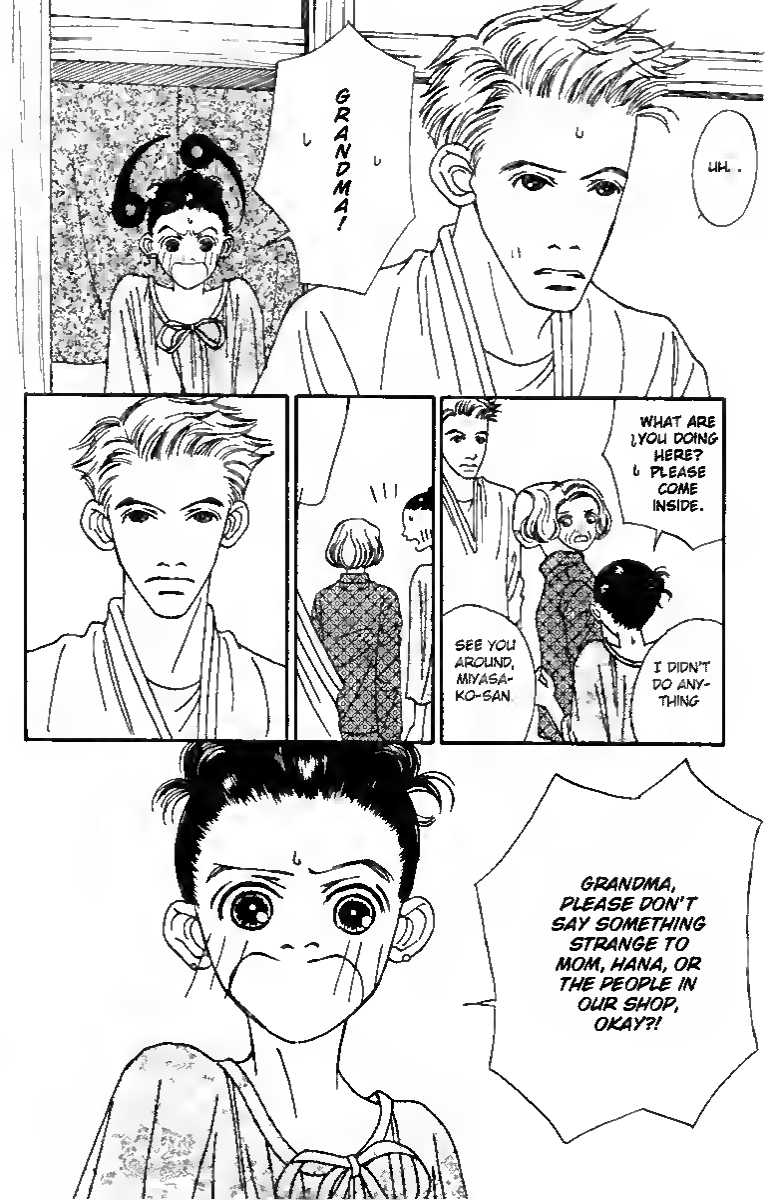

IT COULD BE ANYONE...
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND
.....
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
NOT FRIENDLY AT ALL.
FOR A FUN-LOVING GAL LIKE ARARE, HE CAN'T BE HER TYPE
THE REST ARE .

MIYASAKO-SAN, MY HANDS ARE FREE
YOU CAN GO HELP SEI-OJISAN,
AND BRUSH SOME OIL ON THOSE WAGASHI
OKAY
THEN WASH THE WAGASHI STEAM BOXES
YES
OH, THIS GUY DELEGATES THE DUTIES HE MUST BE TRUSTWORTHY AROUND HERE
GREAT, I'LL ASK HIM.
YOUNG MAN
YES?
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
HOW OLD IS THE GUY OVER THERE?
WATANUKI? IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, HE'S 31


I SEE
SUGI IS 22
YOUNGER THAN ARARE BUT A YEAR OR TWO ISN'T A BIG DEAL
KISHI IS PROBABLY AROUND 25
HUH?
AH, NOTHING. HOW ABOUT THAT ONE?
OH, PERFECT!
3? THE AGE GAP IS A BIT LARGE
AND HIM?
AH, NOTHING IMPORTANT. THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS
THEN, PLEASE EXCUSE ME
WHY DO YOU ASK?
OH, YOUNG MAN
I'M WORRIED SHE MIGHT BE CAUSING EVERYONE TROUBLES
ARARE GREW UP WITHOUT HAVING TO SHOULDER UP TO ANY RESPONSIBILITIES
UNLIKE HINA WHO ALWAYS HELPED OUT IN THE SHOP,


PLEASE GO EASY ON HER, ALRIGHT?
SHE'S DONE A VERY GOOD JOB SO FAR.
SHE'S A CHEERFUL PERSON AND A FUN TO WORK WITH
EVERYONE IS HAPPY TO HAVE HER IN THE SHOP.


IT'S HIM.
THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S MIYASAKO
UH, MIYASAKO-SAN, I KNOW I'M A LITTLE BIASED BUT...
ARARE IS A STRAIGHT-FORWARD PERSON. SHE SPEAKS WHAT SHE THINKS. BUT DEEP DOWN SHE'S REALLY A KIND AND SWEET GIRL.
HUH?
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ARARE FOR ME.

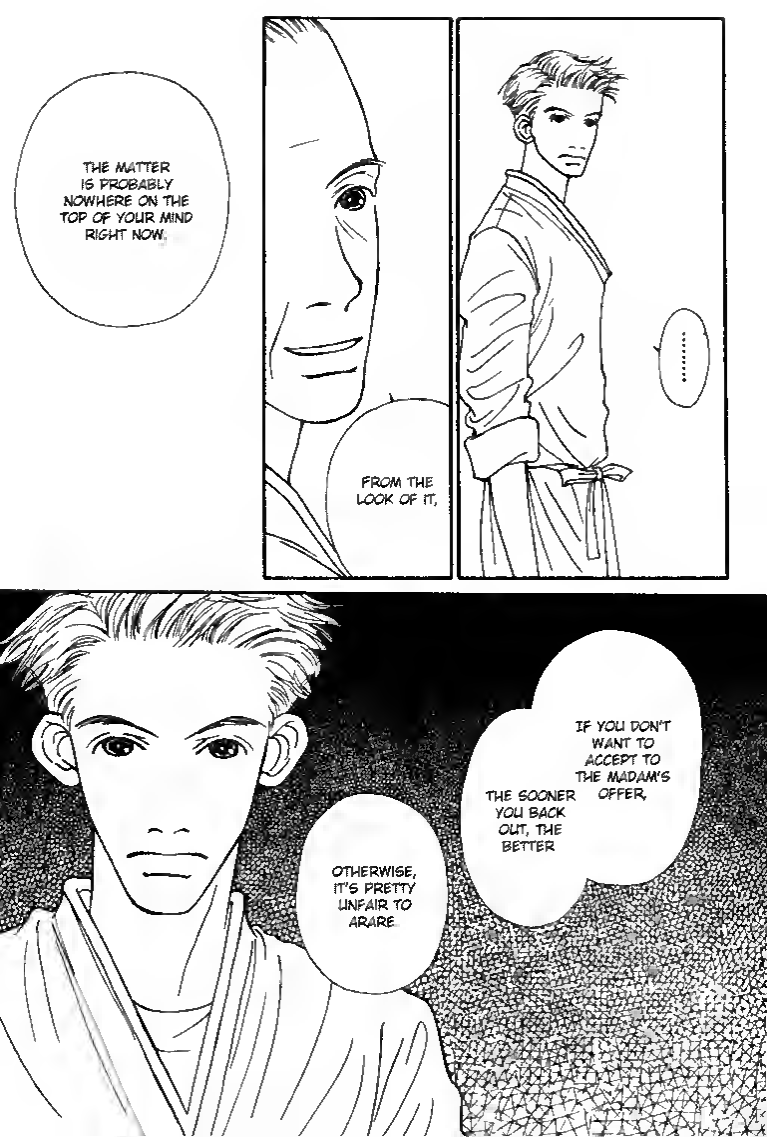

GRANDMA!
UH..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? PLEASE COME INSIDE.
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING
SEE YOU AROUND, MIYASA-KO-SAN.
GRANDMA, PLEASE DON'T SAY SOMETHING STRANGE TO MOM, HANA, OR THE PEOPLE IN OUR SHOP, OKAY?!

HIS SMILE ENCHANTED ME.
IT'S HIM, RIGHT? I KNEW IT RIGHT AWAY.
HE LOOKS STERN FROM AFAR BUT WHEN HE SMILES, HE GIVES OUT A TOTALLY DIFFERENT AURA.
But her guess was frighteningly on the mark.
ENCHANTED WHAT? COME ON, YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING. YOU JUST LIKE HIS SMILE THAT'S ALL.
KEN-CHAN, KEN-CHAN, COME IN HERE FOR A MINUTE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO MY MOTHER-IN-LAW JUST NOW?
NOTHING SPECIAL.
.....

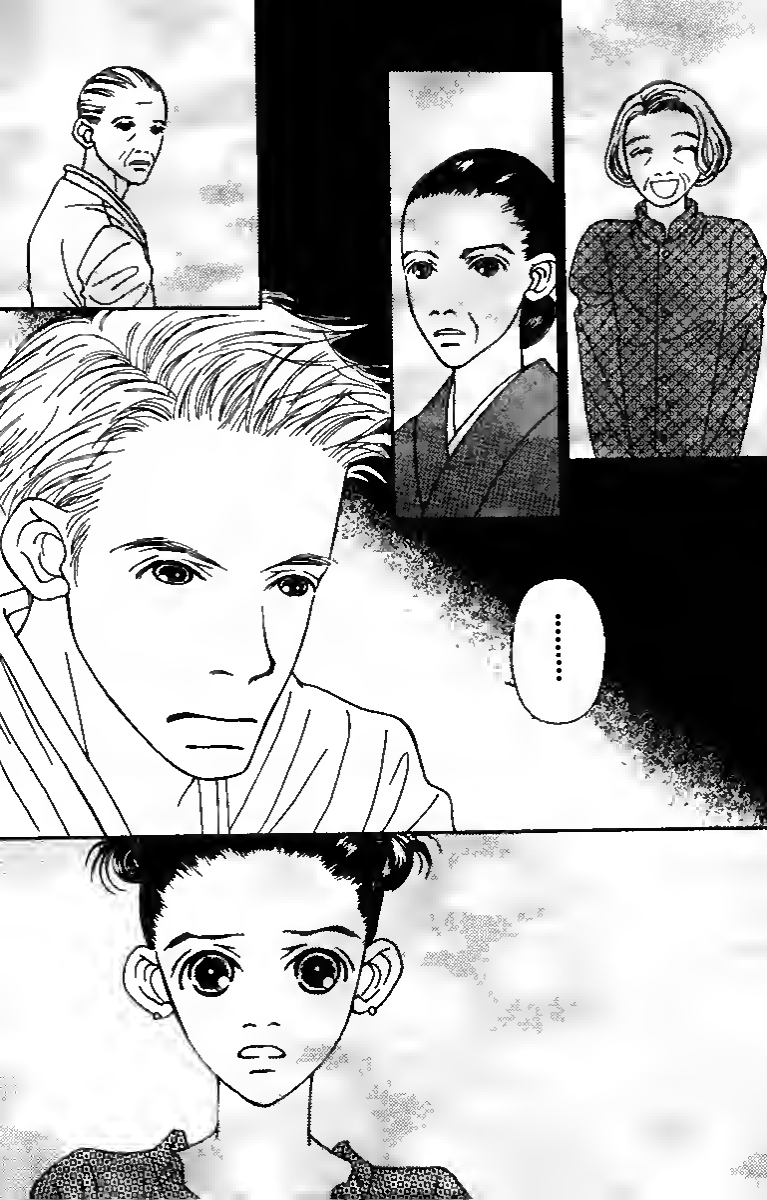
OKAY, THEN SHE'S PROBABLY JUST WORRIED ABOUT ARARE.
KEEP WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT BEFORE A SECRET, OKAY?
I CAN'T IMAGINE THE DISASTER IF ARARE KNEW WE TALKED ABOUT HER.
UM, KEN-CHAN
ABOUT THAT,
HAVE YOU GIVEN IT A THOUGHT?
I GAVE YOU A PROMISE THAT I'LL THINK ABOUT IT BUT I NEED MORE TIME.

BUT IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR.
IF THINGS DRAG ON,
IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR EITHER YOU OR ARARE.
EVERYTHING IS FALLING INTO THEIR PLACES NOW. ISN'T IT A GOOD TIME TO MOVE FORWARD?
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO ANSWER ME TODAY OR TOMORROW. BUT I'LL KEEP MY EARS OPEN FOR A GOOD REPLY FROM YOU.
.....

KENJI, HAVE YOU DELIVERED NITTA-SAN'S ORDER?
YES, I JUST CAME BACK
I SEE. THANKS
.....
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
KENJI.
YOU PROMISED THE MADAM THAT YOU'D THINK ABOUT ARARE, DIDN'T YOU?


THE MATTER IS PROBABLY NOWHERE ON THE TOP OF YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW.
FROM THE LOOK OF IT,
.....
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT TO THE MADAM'S OFFER,
THE SOONER YOU BACK OUT, THE BETTER
OTHERWISE, IT'S PRETTY UNFAIR TO ARARE.

sigh
I KNOW IT ISN'T MY PLACE TO SPEAK.
BUT WHEN I THINK OF ARARE'S FEELINGS...
.....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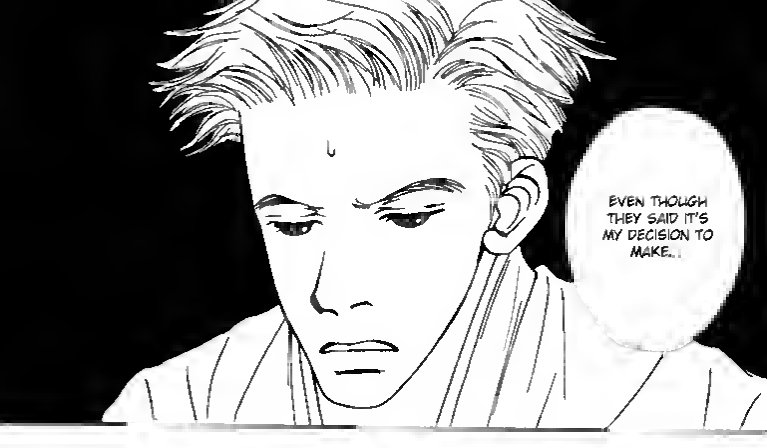

I FEEL THAT EVERYONE IS DRIVING ME TO A CORNER.

http://rakuten.co.jp

Kusamochi

(Lit. "grass mochi") Also known as yomogi mochi, is considered a seasonal dish for spring. Boiled young yomogi (mugwort) leaves mixed with mochi rice flour. It may also be filled with red bean paste. Traditionally, the refreshing fragrance of yomogi was believed to have the power to ward off evil spirits.

Fukuyadon Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

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Fukuyadō Honpo
福家堂本舗
9
Story & Illustration by
YAYOMI YUCHI

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I've received many letters asking these questions
Let me take the opportunity to reply them here.

Q: What made you write a story about Kyoto?

Q: Why did you name the shop Fukuya?

Q: The inspiration for the name Hina, Arare, and Hana?

Q: Why did you want to write about a wagashi shop?

Q: Did you model any of the three sisters from a real person?

A: I can't remember them anymore.

- Yuchi Yayomi